

# THE ATHENEUM

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No. 3083.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1886.

PRICE  
THREEPENCE  
REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER

**BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.**  
The Second Meeting of the Session will be held on WEDNESDAY NEXT, December 1st, at 25, Backville-street, Piccadilly, W. Chair to be taken at 9 P.M.  
Liquor will be exhibited, and the following Papers read:—  
1. 'Les Vedats' by the Rev. Dr. Sparrow Simpson.  
2. 'Tombes Siles on Old London Bridge.' By H. Syer Cuming, Esq., F.S.A. (Scot.).  
W. DE GRAY BIRCH, F.S.A., Honorary Secretary.  
E. F. LOFTUS BROCK, F.S.A., Secretaries.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS**  
(LONDON DISTRICT).—The ANNUAL MEETING of the Members of the London District of the National Association of Journalists will be held on SATURDAY, December 4th, at ANDERTON'S HOTEL, Fleet-street, at 3.30 P.M. All Journalists are invited to attend, but none but Members of the District will be entitled to vote.  
WM. COLLINGS, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer London District.  
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MASTER OF ARTS.—Branch I., Monday, June 6; Branch II., Monday, June 13; Branch III., Monday, June 20; Branch IV., Monday, June 27.  
DOCTOR OF LITERATURE.—Tuesday, December 6.  
SCRIPTURAL EXAMINATIONS.—Tuesday, November 29.  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE.—Intermediate, Monday, July 19; B.Sc., Monday, October 17.  
DOCTOR OF SCIENCE.—Within the first twenty-one days of June.  
BACHELOR OF LAWS.—Intermediate, LL.B., Monday, January 3.  
DOCTOR OF LAWS.—Tuesday, January 19.  
BACHELOR OF MEDICINE.—Preliminary Scientific, Monday, January 17, and Monday, July 19; Intermediate, Monday, July 11; M.B., Monday, October 24.  
BACHELOR OF SURGERY.—Tuesday, December 6.  
MASTER IN SURGERY.—Monday, December 6.  
DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.—Monday, December 6.  
SUBJECTS RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH.—Monday, December 12.  
BACHELOR OF MUSIC.—Intermediate, Monday, December 12; B.Mus., Monday, December 19.  
DOCTOR OF MUSIC.—Intermediate, Monday, December 12; D.Mus., Monday, December 19.  
ART, &c., of TEACHING.—Tuesday, March 1.  
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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1886.

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LITERATURE

*The Life and Work of the Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.* By Edwin Hodder. 3 vols. (Cassell & Co.)

It was desirable in every way that a biography of Lord Shaftesbury should be written, and very desirable that the writing of it should fall into competent hands, and that ample material should be supplied to the biographer. These requirements have to a considerable extent been fulfilled. Yielding at length to the repeated entreaties of others, and to the consciousness that a biography was "inevitable," Lord Shaftesbury, towards the close of his long career, placed his private diaries and many other valuable papers at the disposal of Mr. Hodder, and himself assisted in their preparation and reduction into the form of the present memoir:—

"I am quite content," he said, "to rest on things as they are, and leave posterity to judge me according to the information they may have, or forget me altogether; but if a life is to be written, and in great measure under my correction, I should strongly urge the introduction of much to show the principle on which I acted, the difficulties I had to contend with, the motives which prompted me, the multifarious labours I undertook, and the success or failure which attended them."

So the matter was arranged, and the result is three thick volumes, which may most properly be considered as partly of a biographical and partly of an autobiographical kind, and which may be assumed, therefore, to undoubtedly describe the views and deeds of the late nobleman in the manner that he believed to be most truthful and most characteristic of him. There is loss as well as gain in this arrangement. It is a gain to know (in view of some other biographies) that we have here an indisputable record of the motives that impelled and supported Lord Shaftesbury in the prosecution of the many great and noble efforts that have made his name celebrated and revered. It is something of a loss, perhaps, that, under the circumstances described, opportunity was scarcely allowed the biographer for that vivid portrayal of his subject from without, that comparison and contrasting of it with its environment and the tendencies of the time, that relative as well as positive judgment upon it, which form

the highest function of this branch of literature. We see here Lord Shaftesbury as he knew himself, with his powers and failings as he conceived them: his private embarrassments, his perpetual self-examination, and secret misgivings as to his own capacity—rather exaggerated as they may well appear to others; we catch but indirect glimpses of the real impression which he made on the men who were nearest him in authority and ability, and learn still less of the spirit and teaching of that age through which he moved in a manner so conspicuous, of its influence upon him as well as his on it.

Lord Shaftesbury was born in London on the 28th of April, 1801, and died on the 1st of October, 1885, his life being thus very nearly exactly contemporary with what has elapsed of the present century. He succeeded to the earldom in 1851. On the Christmas Day preceding his accession to it he made out for his own satisfaction a formal list, under three separate headings (vol. ii. pp. 355-9), of what up to that period he, then Lord Ashley, had by his labours gained (1) "for the public," (2) "for the cause of our blessed Master," and (3) "for myself." It is a remarkable and deeply interesting list, epitomizing in most characteristic fashion his earlier efforts in the cause of humanity, and his own reflections and judgments upon them. The third of these headings may be omitted from consideration, for its result is a negative quantity. The second refers to matters of too personal and sacred a kind to touch upon otherwise than very briefly here; but no review of the life of Lord Shaftesbury could aspire to any degree of completeness, or even common accuracy, that omitted all reference to the nature of those religious convictions by which throughout his life he was greatly and continually swayed. In the twenty-third chapter, and under the title "The Inner Life," they are given with great freedom and fulness. "I am essentially, and from deep-rooted conviction," he said to Mr. Hodder on one occasion,

"an Evangelical of the Evangelicals. I have worked with them constantly, and I am satisfied that most of the great philanthropic movements of the century have sprung from them. I stand fast by the teachings held by that party."

He belonged, we are told, to "the older order of Evangelicals":—

"He believed in the doctrine of the total depravity of the human heart by nature, in the necessity of a 'new birth' through the 'revelation' to each individual soul, by the agency of the Holy Spirit and the Word, of the saving truths of the Gospel of the grace of God, by which the understanding is spiritually enlightened and the character transformed. He believed in the Christian life as a humble 'continuous trust in the Atoning Blood,' a simple faith in Scripture, a constant prayerfulness, and a recognition of the Hand of God in all the events of life. On the doctrine of Justification by Faith his trumpet never gave any uncertain sound. He speaks of it as 'That grand doctrine, the very life of the Bible and the Keystone of the Reformation.' The best act that the best man ever did contains in it that which is worthy of condemnation."

He had an "unflinching belief in the special and particular operation of Divine Providence even in matters of comparatively minor importance," and he held with profound conviction the "belief in the doctrine

of the Second Coming of our Lord." "It entered into all his thoughts and feelings; it stimulated him in the midst of all his labours; it gave tone and colour to all his hopes for the future." When the Tractarian movement arose he took a conspicuous part against the High Church doctrines, and an equally prominent one later in combating the teachings of 'Essays and Reviews,' 'Ecce Homo,' and Renan's 'Vie de Jésus,' against the two latter of which books, indeed, he expressed himself in terms of vehement bitterness. He supported Lord John Russell's Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, and disappeared to the last of the religious tactics of the Salvation Army.

The services to the public which in 1851 Lord Ashley was able to attribute to himself, although many, were but an earnest of those which as Lord Shaftesbury he lived to bring to a fuller fruition. Nevertheless some of his most valued and valuable work was already done, though scarcely yet to his satisfaction. The references in his diary to these achievements supply the best and most pithy descriptions of them. A few are quoted:—

"I. Seventeen years of labour and anxiety obtained the Lunacy Bill in 1845, and five years of increased labour since that time have carried it into operation."

"II. Seventeen years, from 1833 to 1850, obtained the Factory Bill."

"IV. In 1845 passed Bill to regulate and limit labour of children and women in Printworks."

"VII. Two years of intense labour, without pay, on Board of Health, specially in season of cholera, and lately on Water-supply to Metropolis."

"IX. This for Parliament. Out of it have spared no trouble nor expense (and both have been excessive) for Ragged Schools, Model Lodging-houses, Malta College, Emigration Committees, and meetings by day and by night on every imaginable subject."

The multiplicity of religious and philanthropic movements with which Lord Shaftesbury was connected in his later life precludes the possibility, in a short review, of even a passing reference to them severally, but three of preponderating importance may be selected from the latter category, with which, under both his earlier and later titles, his name has become indelibly associated. The first of these is the factory movement, that is, the agitation, as it was then, for procuring exceptional legislation for the conduct of factories. An agitation of this kind had been going on for some time before he joined it. In 1802 and again in 1819 the first Sir Robert Peel, and in 1825 Sir John Hobhouse (Lord Broughton), had succeeded in carrying through Parliament certain partial measures of relief for children; but these very incomplete enactments were generally disregarded, even in the few cases where they were applicable at all. It was not till 1830 that "the great and comprehensive movement with which, later on, Lord Ashley was to be pre-eminently identified, commenced." Its birth-place was Yorkshire, where a few resolute men sought to bring pressure to bear on the legislature from without, to assist the efforts of friends within such as Sir J. Hobhouse, Lord Morpeth, and Mr. Sadler. The last of these having failed in 1832 in procuring a second reading for his famous

Ten Hours' Bill, the matter was referred to a Select Committee, and it was while reading incidentally some extracts from the report of this committee, published in the newspapers, that Lord Ashley first became aware of the atrocious evils of the system of unregulated employment that was in operation around him. For a moment he hesitated, but only a moment, and then threw himself heart and soul—as was his wont—into the cause of the suffering and oppressed. From that time until forty-five years afterwards, when (in 1878) a general law was passed embracing a supervision of nearly every branch of industrial production, his exertions were unremitting and inestimable. Not children only, but women and all “young persons” had now come under the protection of the State, not in respect to their labour merely, but in respect to sanitation and education—advantages which were brought to them in their daily work. Nor had his great efforts been even confined to the whole field of industrial production, vast as that was, and vaster as it was yearly becoming. Miners, agricultural labourers, dressmakers, brick-makers, little acrobats, even chimney-sweeps, were all equally his clients; no occupation was too obscure and mean to secure his assistance so long as there was a wrong to be redressed; but rather the meaner and more despised it was the more assured might it be of his sympathy, the more certain of his support. It is scarcely, if it is at all, too much to say that no great legislative achievement of the present century having the good of the poorest classes of the community for its distinctive object failed to secure him as its able and persistent champion.

In a life so active and necessarily aggressive it is not surprising that Lord Shaftesbury occasionally aroused strong feelings against him in the minds of those whose prescriptive positions he assailed, and upon whose apparent interests he seemed to trench. In the factory controversy this opposition was especially apparent and pronounced. There was some reason for it. Lord Shaftesbury had no pecuniary interest in manufacture, nor any knowledge of the nature and requirements of manufacturing operations. On the other hand, his family had long held large landed estates in one of the very poorest of the agricultural districts. When he entered the arena as the champion of the factory workers, therefore, and horrified the world with the stories he related of their lot, it was easy to point to the tenants on his own father's estate and ask if their condition was much better, and it was not easy to give a satisfactory reply. Lord Shaftesbury felt this taunt keenly; his diaries contain many references to it and the pain it caused him. Most people, however, who read these volumes will agree that his explanation is adequate. He was seldom on good terms with his father, and exercised no influence at all over him; and after he succeeded to the ancestral estates he was greatly hampered by the lack of means in carrying out his philanthropic designs. Lord Shaftesbury was always a poor man. Twice at least, notwithstanding that he set a high value on the distinction, he refused the offer of the Garter, on the ground, chiefly if not wholly, that he could not afford the expense

(about 1,000*l.*) of investiture. Nevertheless no sooner had he succeeded to the family property than he did set about improving the dwellings of the labourers, to the postponement of every other kind of improvement, of which, too, there was pressing need. One or two extracts from his diary are of quite pathetic interest in this connexion:—

“August 22nd.—Inspected a few cottages—filthy, close, indecent, unwholesome. But what can I do? I am half pauperised; the debts are endless; no money is payable for a whole year, and I am not a young man. Every sixpence I expend—and spend I must on many things—is borrowed!”

“August 25th.—Car (his sister, Lady Caroline Neeld) has offered to build me four cottages in the village. Heartily do I give God thanks for this, who has put it into her heart. The world will now, at least, see our good intentions; and that is of high importance where, like me, a party has been a great professor.”

“Sept. 6th.—Shocking state of cottages; stuffed like figs in a drum. Were not the people as cleanly as they can be, we should have had an epidemic. Must build others, cost what it may.”

Moreover, he always supported, as has been said, the regulation of labour in agriculture as in manufacture once the proposal had assumed a definite shape, and was himself the prime mover in rectifying some of the abuses of the detestable gang system by the passing of the Agricultural Gangs Act of 1867. Indeed, it is not always easy in looking back on the factory controversy of that period to understand the extraordinary heat and personal animosity often imported into the discussion by men of the highest character and integrity on either side; and it is impossible to do so without reference to other great political movements that were just then in progress and to the dominant economic beliefs of the day. Many of the ablest and worthiest men of the last generation were prepared to make almost any sacrifice for the political enfranchisement of the people or the extinction of negro slavery, while they sincerely believed it to be beyond their province to prevent the no less grave injustices and frightful inhumanities that were perpetrated just outside their own doors, or even inside them. It has been reserved for the present generation to realize that the most grinding economical slavery may exist within the most perfect forms of political freedom, and to adopt as maxims of government those principles which the early factory reformers only arrived at by the strong exercise of sympathy, in actual opposition sometimes to the dictates of judgment and the teachings of their earlier years.

But little space remains to speak of the two other movements in the public interest which have been singled out as specially characteristic of this noble career: the establishment of “Ragged Schools,” and the long sustained effort to provide better dwellings for the poor. Lord Shaftesbury's heart was thoroughly in the first of these works—how thoroughly this biography and his private papers again and again testify. Nearly connected with it were his lifelong labours in the cause of criminal reform, and especially of the reform of youthful offenders. Many striking passages might be quoted from this work in illustration of these. He had had an unhappy childhood and boyhood himself. With the exception of one old

female servant, whose teachings had a lasting influence upon him, and who died when he was about seven years old, and left him a watch which he wore to the day of his death, he met with few in his early life who sympathized with him. It is possible that this early training had something to do with the austerity which characterized his outward demeanour in after life. But towards the outcasts of society or towards little children no trace of that austerity was apparent. Lord Shaftesbury loved little children, even as his Master loved them; he understood them, and was happy and unconstrained in their society. He had not originated this work; his notice had been drawn to it, as in the case of the factory agitation, only by something that he had read in the public papers; but once having entered on it he adhered to it with indefatigable energy, and found his reward in the only two directions that he cared to seek it—in the rescue of a few poor fellow creatures from the dark doom that seemed inevitably to hang over them and in the silent approval of his own heart. It was similar in many respects as regards his long efforts to obtain better accommodation for the working classes and the very poor. They commenced early in his life, and they only closed with it. It seems but the other day—it is, in fact, but two or three years—since he attended to give evidence before the Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes. It was among the last, though it was not absolutely the last, of his public acts, and then came the end. But the title of Earl of Shaftesbury has acquired a new association wherever the English language is spoken, and has become ennobled in a sense that those earlier bearers of it little dreamt of who in other times shed a lustre of a different kind over it.

*High Life and Towers of Silence.* By the Author of ‘The High Alps in Winter.’ (Sampson Low & Co.)

The late Master of Trinity is reported to have said of a somewhat younger scholar, whose place in the Tripos was higher than his attainments seemed to justify, that “he presumed X. had been created in order to keep Senior Classics humble.” Whether Mrs. Main, in writing her somewhat fantastically named book, had any conscious design of producing the same beneficent effect upon masculine climbers, we are not prepared to say. But it certainly ought to restrain these last from thinking of themselves more highly than they ought to think when they find some of their most brilliant achievements, including even that special *Kunststück* of recent years, the ascent of the Dent du Géant, are not beyond the powers of a lady, and of one who is not, we believe, endowed in any very conspicuous degree with the physical qualifications generally supposed to be indispensable for the performance of mountaineering feats. The truth is, of course, that Alpine climbing does not require any great physical strength or gymnastic facility. What the Germans call *Ausdauer*, “staying-power,” is the prime essential, and next to this so much steadiness of foot and head as is possessed by the average healthy person. The vast majority

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of fatal accidents in the High Alps have been due to causes in presence of which the active gymnast would have been as helpless as his own grandmother; while of those which activity might have been expected to prevent, a large proportion have befallen men who possessed plenty of that quality. So there is really no reason why a woman, if she is prepared to face discomforts which must to her be far more severe than to a man, and if she is not a slave to the conventionalities of costume, should not go up the Weisshorn or the Rothhorn, or any other Horn, Dent, or Spitze that takes her fancy. Only she should not begin till she is well out of her teens.

Mrs. Main's book is much like most Alpine books. She does not wholly escape the snares of flippancy, and small satire upon less ambitious tourists, which are apt to beset those who describe mountain adventures. Also she falls, by a double right, into a grammatical trap by which not only those writers, but most ladies who write about anything at all, are usually caught, and of which the following passage is a particularly good example: "Glancing towards Zinal, the cliffs fell away in magnificent precipices." Perhaps it is unfair to expect absolute accuracy in the spelling of Engadine names, but she might have got nearer to Piz Murail than "Murigal"; and she need not have docked the Münster Thal of its *n*, if she named it in its German form. The chapter, by the way, in which this occurs, and the previous one, are among the most interesting in the book. They contain an account of an attempted passage of the Stelvio in the terrible autumn of 1882, and give sufficient proof that when the snow-line is crossed the most frequented road may, under suitable conditions of weather, be as full of peril as any glacier pass. In one place Mrs. Main's memory seems to have played her false. Describing a descent from the Matterhorn to Breuil, in which she was overtaken by night, she relates how she had to halt for some time after dark till the moon should rise, and again, when the moon had sunk, "till the grey light of early morning allowed us to set out again." Now on the night of August 20-21, 1883, the moon was two days past the full. It rose half an hour after sunset, and did not set till more than two hours after the sun was well risen. The second halt must, therefore, have been due to some other cause than want of light.

The illustrations are mostly rather disappointing to those who have seen Mrs. Main's charming photographs of the High Alps. The winter scene in the village of Wiesen and the view of the rocky pinnacles near Pontresina called "The Sisters" are the best. The frontispiece represents her favourite guide, Édouard Cupelin; and it certainly makes one regret that so magnificent a specimen of humanity should be doomed, as we believe is the case, by the results of an accident, never again to practise the mountain craft in which he has proved himself a master.

*Experiences of a Woolwich Professor during Fifteen Years at the Royal Military Academy.* By Major-General A. W. Drayson, late R.A., F.R.A.S. (Chapman & Hall.)

THOSE readers who take up General Drayson's book expecting to find piquant revelations concerning the so-called Ordnance scandals which now agitate Woolwich will certainly be disappointed. Yet there are many amusing passages in it which will repay perusal. What will first strike officers of the modern school on opening this volume will be the extreme facility with which professorships were bestowed upon the first applicants some thirty years ago, before the fashion of competitive examination had set in at the War Office and Horse Guards. An assistant-instructorship falling vacant, the author applied for it, and was required to give such proofs of his knowledge as a triangulation with the theodolite, a sketch with the compass, and a survey with the chain. Three days were devoted to this work, and the plans sent in for criticism. Two days afterwards Capt. Drayson received the appointment.

Soon after the Governor of the Academy asked whether Capt. Drayson was qualified to undertake the duties of instructor in practical astronomy, and whether, if he did not know sufficient, he was prepared to work up the subject. At this time Capt. Drayson understood working with the sextant, but was unacquainted with the transit instrument:—

"To have commenced studying practical astronomy when unacquainted with the mere elements of the subject would have been a laborious undertaking, and I don't think I should have ventured to have taken the appointment, had I been thus ignorant of the whole subject; knowing, however, that I was at least two months ahead of any officer who might come to study with me, I believed that, by practice and study, I could keep ahead of him, and in consequence of the kind assistance given me at the Royal Observatory I gained a knowledge of the whole details of the science, which rendered it almost impossible that any of my pupils could possess more information on astronomy than I had managed to gain."

The author assures his readers that, after receiving some instruction at Greenwich, he had not only learnt all that was known at the Royal Observatory, but he found out also what was not known and not even suspected. Thus it was that the artillery officer became a paradoxer. The gallant astronomer had studied geometrical drawing under Mr. Bradley, "a man of rare genius," and to whom "the subject of practical geometry owes more than to any man living," and by geometry alone the artillery officer undertook to solve one of the most abstruse problems in astronomy, viz., the motion of the axis of the earth, to which is due the precession of the equinoxes. Under the impression that his ideas might be pilfered by "certain gentlemen who are always ready to secure an idea and bring it out as their own," the professor published a small work, 'The Earth we Inhabit,' which had the effect of putting the would-be pirates off the scent; and, finally, the solution of the problem was brought before the Astronomical Society, where, however, it was received with chilling silence. The fellows of the Geological

Society were also cold in their reception of the new theory. "They did not know enough about a circle to be able to offer any opinion." In 1873-4 our author, now a lieutenant-colonel of artillery, published the results of his investigations and awaited the objections that would, he was sure, be urged against his discovery; but he was disappointed. During the twelve years that have since elapsed not one single argument has been brought forward against his theory, he tells us, which was not of a puerile, erroneous, or feeble kind.

It seems singular to the professor that so great a money value is attached to so comparatively an unimportant matter as discovering (if possible) the actual distance of the sun, whilst the movement of the earth, as demonstrated by him, explaining the precession of the equinoxes, should be ignored by the Astronomical Society because it does not accord with the theories at present accepted. No wonder the conclusion the author has arrived at is "that the most stupid man is he who is a mathematician only." No wonder either that when Mr. Grubb erected an equatorial telescope for the Royal Artillery Institution he found no one at Woolwich capable or qualified to take charge of it.

If General Drayson has not been fortunate as an astronomer, he is at his best when dealing with the billiard table, where he is deservedly an acknowledged authority. Like Cook, the ex-champion, he could allow the Astronomer Royal to practise the coefficients of the angles of incidence and reflection for a week at the Woolwich mess, then give him fifty out of a hundred, and play him for a sovereign a game. We would strongly dissuade Mr. Christie from accepting any such challenge.

The civilian instructors had some difficulty in maintaining discipline under the old system at Woolwich, and the relations between an inefficient professor and his pupils are exemplified in the following reminiscence:—

"There was a civilian master once at the Academy who was of a timid nature, and who, when he gave marks for questions which the cadets considered inadequate, used to be subjected to the following experience. A cadet with a sharp pair of compasses would go to the table in the octagon, where this master sat, and would say: 'I think, sir, I have been treated very unfairly.' This remark was followed by the cadet digging his compasses into the table near the hand of the master. 'I ought to receive many more marks.' Another furious dig of the compasses. 'Your marks, Mr. —, are, I consider, quite sufficient,' would be the reply of the master. 'I have been treated very unfairly, sir, and think it a great shame I have been given so few marks. I ought to have several more.' Another demonstration with the compasses. 'Well, Mr. —, I will look over the question again, and see whether I can give you a few more.'"

General Drayson hastens to inform us that the cadets who behaved thus were "in nearly every instance young men with correct ideas and were gentlemen," and that such a proceeding could not have been practised upon a military instructor. He gives it as his opinion, therefore, that all the professors at military colleges and schools should be combatant officers.

*Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, of the Reign of Henry VIII., preserved in the Public Record Office, the British Museum, and elsewhere in England.* Arranged and catalogued by James Gairdner. Vol. IX. (Longmans & Co.)

THE appearance of what we hope may be called Mr. Gairdner's annual volume is for students of history one of the events of the year. It was not to be expected that such a volume as the last, so full of terrible dramatic interest, should be followed without a break by a volume equally exciting. After the butchery of the poor Carthusians and the hideous murders of Fisher and More there was a lull, such as it was; that is, there were no more butcheries—they were not needful; but still less was there any sign of revolt; that was assumed to be entirely hopeless. The nation was more absolutely cowed than it had ever been before; more so than in the days of the Norman kings at their worst. Nevertheless, says Mr. Gairdner in his introduction, "we have good reason to believe that never before in all his reign, and perhaps never afterwards either, was Henry so deeply harassed by anxiety as during the six months following the death of Fisher and Sir Thomas More."

It was not that he had anything to fear from his subjects. Strange to say, his only formidable adversary was the Pope, whom he might seem to have foiled and defeated once and for ever. But the Popes of Rome are of those who never know when they are beaten, and Paul III. was no exception to this rule. Even over the ferocious king who had carried all before him, and who was prepared to stop at nothing in the furtherance of his designs, there hovered a gloomy dread. Like men who proclaim they do not believe in ghosts, and yet are unable to shake off the old superstition, Henry fiercely defied the Pope and secretly trembled. How if the Bishop of Rome should excommunicate him and declare him deposed from his throne, as had been done before? Looking back upon history, the thunders of the Vatican did not seem to have fallen always harmless, and Pope Paul had not hesitated to threaten, and when he threatened he meant what he said. The only question was who should be the executioner of the sentence when it should be pronounced. Where was the Supreme Pontiff to find a secular arm potent enough to carry out his decree? The new Pope was not a great man; he was something very much less than great. If only the wearer of the tiara had now been not Paul III., but Paul IV., Giovanni Caraffa, who was the other's junior by eight years, but who did not succeed to the Papacy till Queen Mary's time, how differently things might have gone! As it was, Paul III. in trying to use the King of France and the Emperor for his own ends succeeded in nothing but in exhibiting his own incapacity. Francis I. and Charles V. were not likely to prove tools that a Pope could safely handle. Henry played all these off against one another. In no part of his policy does the king's ability appear more conspicuous than in his management of his foreign affairs at the time, and these he seems to have kept in his own hands and almost without an adviser. But if Henry's ability comes out in the way in which his diplomacy suc-

ceeded, his invariable good fortune is even more conspicuous.

As far as we can judge from the course of events there must have been a good deal of ignorant bungling in the matter of the Lubeckers and in the Danish quarrels. Yet somehow no harm came of it. The ambassadors sent to foreign courts (such men as Bishops Foxe and Gardiner) were children compared with consummate courtiers like Chapuys or even Castelnau, Bishop of Tarbes; yet in the issue the practised intriguers proved a little too clever, and the game which Francis on the one hand and Charles on the other were engaged in was immeasurably more intricate than that which the King of England was playing. As long as Henry could hold his own it was a point gained whenever they got in one another's way. He did hold his own and something more. In this volume we can read clearly how it all came about; the men that thought they were working in the dark so shrewdly, so astutely, disguising their motives so cleverly, and hiding so much, speak out to us now without reserve—not one of their secrets hidden. Truth may be at the bottom of the well, but modern research seems able to get to the bottom and discover what lies there.

This volume is, however, far less valuable for anything that concerns the foreign affairs of those six months than for what it tells us of the immediate consequences of the king's assumption of supremacy over the Church in England. By the Act which annulled the jurisdiction of the Pope in England the final court of appeal for all cases ecclesiastical was abolished and nothing provided in its room. England swarmed with ecclesiastical courts, where suits of very diverse kinds were tried—questions of morals, of testamentary disposition of property, of Church patronage, of bastardy, not to speak of heresy and the like. In all cases the aggrieved party had hitherto had an appeal to a higher court, and that higher court was the Papal Court at Rome. Now there was no appeal except to the king's own fiat; court there was none. That was bad enough; but there was worse than this behind. The monasteries had already gone far to sign their own death warrant by formally acknowledging the king's supremacy over themselves. The most powerful religious houses in England had for ages been practically independent of any one except the Pope. They had not only defied, but flouted and thwarted even the Archbishops of Canterbury again and again. Exempt from the jurisdiction of their several dioceses, they were, of course, exempt from anything in the shape of episcopal visitation, and had made it a matter of principle to shut their doors in the face of bishop or archbishop—in some instances they had actually something like bishops of their own. Was this state of things to continue? Henry VIII. was not the man to lose by the concession that he had wrung from the monasteries. He lost no time in availing himself of his new powers. The monasteries had no sooner given him his chance than he used it. Was he supreme head of the Church? Then he was supreme head of the great religious houses, exempt or not exempt. And visited the monasteries should be, and without delay. But some were not exempt from episcopal visitation; these

were and had always been subject to the bishops of the diocese in which they were situated, and there are still existing hundreds of records of such episcopal visitations which have never up to this hour been printed, and which remain for the historians of the future to unearth and utilize. Cranmer bestirred himself. It seems that he had contemplated himself a general visitation of the religious houses already, and that the bishops generally had set about their visitations in the summer of 1535. The king was too quick for the primate. On the 18th of September Cranmer was informed that the king forbade any episcopal visitations to take place while the royal visitation was being held. Cranmer hesitated for a fortnight, but, as usual, gave way on the 2nd of October. He was not the man to forget the fate of Fisher or to covet the crown of martyrdom. So the king's visitation began.

Seldom in the world's history has a tyrant found baser instruments for his basest designs than Henry found for carrying out the visitation of the English monasteries. That there were foolish superstitions in some of the religious houses, that there were abuses in others—that some of the thousands among the inmates of monasteries, great and small, were living scandalous lives, and many more were living useless ones—nobody would be so silly as to deny. But that any monastery in England contained half a dozen such wretches as the more prominent of the visitors who came to despoil them is almost inconceivable. It is a sickening story. The reader of this volume as he turns over page after page is in danger of disbelieving everything that these men report, in his indignation at the audacious and manifest lying which characterizes their reports. The men were not one whit better than common informers, and they never thought it worth while to deal with any but common informers. Runaway monks of blasted character, rogues who were on the look out for a share of the spoil, fellows who were professional blacklegs, defaulters who had embezzled the convent's money and cooked their accounts, cowed ruffians who were actually confined in the prisons of the monasteries for their crimes—these and the like were the men to whom the visitors looked, and whose inventions they reported or even exaggerated. Considering the tremendous pressure used and the incomparably unscrupulous character of the emissaries engaged, Mr. Gairdner is more than justified in his remark that

"the wonder, indeed, is that the recorded cases are so few, and that in spite of all the inducement offered under the new régime to appeal to the king's vicegerent or the visitors, there are not more frequent instances.....a fact which, duly considered, seems to imply that the rule in most houses was far more wholesome and more willingly submitted to than many have been hitherto disposed to believe."

Meanwhile the position of the bishops was only less humiliating than that of the great abbots and priors. Cromwell "had handed over the bench of bishops, like a class of refractory schoolboys, to a couple of new masters," and the two universities were treated with even less ceremony. At Cambridge on the 30th of August Cromwell had thought proper to get himself elected Bishop

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Fisher's successor as Chancellor. What could the man have meant by this eccentric move?

And all this while Queen Katharine lay slowly dying of her last sickness, and Mary her daughter, too, was languishing under another attack of severe illness—eating her heart out, with only one faithful friend in England who had any influence—Chapuis, the emperor's representative, of whose never-failing versatility we have spoken before, and who stands alone during this period as the one man at King Henry's Court who never quailed when everybody else was truckling and shuddering—the one man with a magnanimous scorn for the mean tricksters who huddled round him.

Of Anne Boleyn during these six months we do not hear much; she had taken good care of herself, however, and the account of her receiver rendered at Michaelmas of this year shows that her landed estates were very large. Her time was coming, and what the king had given that the king would be pretty certain to take back when the opportunity served. Cromwell, too, was piling up money, but it was a mere beginning. Half a dozen wretched priors had been drawn upon, and their names and contributions are duly recorded; but we must wait for Mr. Gairdner's further revelations before we can at all estimate the magnitude of the sums which came to Cromwell's hands, and which in their turn dropped out of those hands. There was a method in the king's very massacres. Like Nero before him, he preferred that some solid gain should be made out of a victim whom he had an inclination to sacrifice.

#### NOVELS OF THE WEEK.

"*Doctor Cupid*." By Rhoda Broughton. 3 vols. (Bentley & Son.)

*A House Party*. By Ouida. (Hurst & Blackett.)

*The Senior Major*. By Philip Gaskell. 3 vols. (White & Co.)

*Lady Brankmere*. By the Author of 'Molly Bawn.' 3 vols. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

*Found Guilty*. By Frank Barrett. 3 vols. (Ward & Downey.)

*Muriel's Marriage*. By Esmé Stuart. 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

*Marcella Grace: an Irish Novel*. By Rosa Mulholland. (Kegan Paul, Trench & Co.)

*Harlette*. Par l'Auteur de 'L'Impératrice Wanda.' (Paris, Calmann Lévy.)

*Dans l'Train*. Par Gyp. (Paris, Victor-Havard.)

THE Miss Broughton of 'Doctor Cupid' is not precisely she of 'Not Wisely, but Too Well,' and 'Good-bye, Sweetheart,' and such partial readers as have not followed her intermediate stages are likely to feel "a shock of mild surprise," not to say disappointment. Not one of her imitators could have written her first book; more than one might have produced her last. Whatever her faults—and they were neither few nor inconsiderable—her early novels were at least supported by the presence of a vigorous individuality, which has steadily declined. It is not that, like some other novelists, she has taken a new departure; it is only that her defects, and more especially the qualities of her defects, have vanished. The reckless audacity of lan-

guage, the untamed, crude, and irresponsible cynicism, the passion of sensuous delight, and the flow of humour, ill-natured, yet vigorous—all these are sorely weakened. Once, too, she knew her Scripture, and could quote it for her purpose; but she has lost that special knack of parody that pleased or displeased, and seldom makes a good hit. In her abuse of the present tense she still persists, but it no longer produces the old effects; for the three volumes of 'Doctor Cupid,' so far from being quick and riotous in movement, are laboured and dragging enough to make the habit show plainly for the offence in style it is. In 'Doctor Cupid' many presentations, by this time quite elderly, are made to do duty again. The heroine, Margaret Lambton, is in some ways new enough, and is doubtless better worthy of regard than several of her predecessors. She is a really good and eminently healthy young person; yet we fear that she will be considered a trifle tiresome. Her transparent soul, her vigorous arms and shoulders are centred on the pure delights of gardening and on ministering to tame creatures of all sorts. Amongst others, eleven birds, a terrier, and one fox run riot through her life. The continual refrain, the *leitmotif*, so to speak, of flowers and foxes which greets her comings and goings is a tedious peculiarity. Strange as it may seem, except for a little rudeness Margaret is almost of the "Jane was as good as gold" type. Her younger sister, however, is simply the galvanized ghost of an idle, amorous, and hysterical maiden, and for the reader's comfort should die long before she does. Of course there is a woman of the world, with a lover and a husband, and a habit of rouge and bismuth, to contrast with the virginal directness, the "fine grained skin," and informal locks of the country heroine. Her divided love for John Talbot and her child and Talbot's captive state have some good suggestions; but when she is not taken up with one or other object she is capable of buying up the penny tarts of her county town, and pelting pet guardsmen with them in the absence of the lobster claws which, on occasion, serve her for a like purpose. The language of Young Oxford, as spoken by the "charming" and irresponsible Freddy, is sometimes lifelike and amusing. But the time-worn jest on the rapid increase of a poor clergyman's family is neither amusing nor spirited. Miss Broughton has powers of observation and a knack of presenting character which are worthy of better uses.

Future historians of the present reign will have a difficulty to contend with from which their predecessors have mostly been free. It will be impossible in any estimate of manners and customs to ignore the evidence afforded by the writers of fiction, who have increased so enormously in the last half century; but the work of estimating their comparative value will undoubtedly add much to the conscientious historian's labours. Memoirs and letters dealing with real people can be checked one by another; but who is to say how much reliance may be placed on the pictures of life drawn by contemporary novelists? The writer of the twenty-first century as he turns over the files of old newspapers will, for instance, notice the frequent recurrence, in advertisements and

elsewhere, of the name "Ouida"; he will find evidence that her books were pretty widely read; he will, not without difficulty perhaps, and after much exploration of the "4d. boxes" of the day, succeed in getting hold of a copy of one or another of them. Suppose that he chances on the one now before us. He will assuredly gather from it that about the year 1886 adultery was almost universal among the upper class of English society, and that the few persons who were not themselves in the habit of committing it did something more than tolerate it in their friends. He will observe that even children of this class were perfectly aware of the relations in which their elders lived to each other, and that the girls looked upon marriage with love as suited only to people of humble rank. In other matters he will find self-indulgence universally prevailing, and with it a great deal of unmanly pessimism, and querulous complaints of a decadence for which the complainers have only themselves to thank; also on the author's part an occasional half-hearted moralizing over the evils of a state of things which she describes with much gusto. How far the picture is true we, of course, know; but our imaginary historian may well be puzzled. He will be lucky if he has Latin enough to be aware that the author did not know the meaning of "a lustre."

Mr. Gaskell's novel 'The Senior Major' is easily read, and easily, though not especially well, written; in fact, it is altogether an unambitious, easy-going, and amusing kind of book. Of course, like all its kind, it is unnecessarily full of slang. Such expressions as "putting in an appearance" and "well up," a dearth of pronouns, a peculiar use and understanding of the word "idiosyncrasy," and a habit of carrying the attention back by means of the legal "said," are vices to be noted. The heroine's career surprises one rather agreeably. Dorothy is fifteen and rejoices in auburn hair, an unlimited command of slang, and a taste for clandestine flirtation; all which leads one to expect that she will develop into a heroine, not in Miss Broughton's best manner. She does not do so; but on the contrary grows in favour with the reader, as well as with the Non-Dancing Hussars, most of whom are not badly drawn, and tell their own not too brilliant tale with something of the vigour of reality. The Senior Major himself is annoying enough; at times he is priggish, an unnatural fault in such a character. The handsome but wicked colonel is not more successful than the high-minded major. Considering how small a part he really plays, he looms and broods almost too darkly over the face of events. One may be thankful, however, that he is not of the lady novelists' order of beings, and that the lovely Dorothy has a good deal of that undefinable something that men like, but seldom get, in women. The "suiting" (or love-making) is direct and simple, the reverse of heroic or "highfalutin"; and the unchangeable affection between the two sisters and their respective daughters, Rhoda and Dorothy, is natural and pleasing. More there is not to say.

There is no originality in 'Lady Brankmere,' but there is plenty of light-heartedness and pleasantness instead. The secondary

parts are the best; for the awful mystery, the Jane Eyre madwoman, weighs lightly on the imagination, and, though a source of agony to the principals of the story, leaves the reader tolerably free to enjoy, rather than criticize, the doings of the set of rollicking young men and maidens who (as they would themselves express it) "slang" or "spoon" each other, and make utter havoc of each other's hearts, to their own and their author's great enjoyment. These young people are not unlike some of Miss Broughton's; but while they are not so ill-conditioned, so rude, nor so untidy, they are also some degrees less vigorous. Lady Brankmere herself (her romantic name is Muriel) is a failure. Her appearance is altogether too imposing to be impressive. She suffers inconceivable things in the way of lassitude and general torpor of the system, she trails through the story in Burne-Jones attitudes, and does ample justice to her stock of Liberty fabrics and her enormous eyes; but she does never a hand's turn of needlework or other useful employment, and as little in the way of explaining her vague yet complex personality. The lofty relations established between herself and her legal protector are forced and unnatural in the extreme, and, moreover, are horribly out of keeping with the flippancy of the cheerful and skittish creatures in her train. With these the canvas is crowded to excess; Sir Mutius Mumm and his sister, for instance, are merely superfluous caricatures. Mrs. Billy, who is sister-in-law to most of the young people, has more significance. She has a lively style of conversation and demeanour supposed to be the result of a youth passed amongst Americans, though, sooth to say, her talk is not really their talk, nor are her ways their ways. She is sharp and masterful, but good and true to the backbone; and although she encourages amongst her admiring relatives a gay and careless use of the expression "See here," and omits her own pronouns, she may be forgiven, inasmuch as she successfully baffles the feeble villain of the story.

Mr. Barrett's over-crowded story is told in a series of narratives by three of the principal characters, one of whom is a prying servant; it turns to a great extent upon the crafty villainy of an amateur toxicologist, who callously attempts to get rid of his somewhat weak-minded wife, and for a long time holds her prisoner in his house, with no attendant but a wretched deaf-mute. The reader may anticipate from this introduction a lively romance of the sensational order, much in the manner of an older and more experienced weaver of plots than Mr. Frank Barrett; and it is impossible to acquit the author of 'Found Guilty' of at any rate reminding his friends of the author of 'Heart and Science.' The incidents, mysteries, complications, and catastrophes of the novel under notice are some of them ingeniously contrived. But some of the expedients adopted to bring about startling or desirable results are unquestionably forced and unnatural. The machinery no doubt works wonders, but it creaks, and it is clumsy to look at. It may seem ungracious to carp at the methods by which Mr. Barrett has produced his exciting story; and yet even the excitement would have been greater if the methods had been a little more skilful.

Recollections of 'A Faire Damzell' inspired us with expectations which Miss Stuart's new novel has hardly succeeded in fulfilling. 'Muriel's Marriage' suffers grievously from the absence of a male character calculated to inspire interest, much less respect. Indeed, Aylmer Hardy, who is one of the most womanish and contemptible cowards imaginable, occupies so much room that the reader's patience is well-nigh exhausted when the exposure takes place which he devoutly hoped would eliminate Hardy from the story. But the leopard suddenly changes his spots in the third volume, develops into a hero, and all ends happily. To those who are not repelled by the want and the inconsistency which we have endeavoured to indicate, 'Muriel's Marriage' may give a good deal of quiet pleasure. The author's sketches of her own sex are both genial and amusing, and Varinka Page is an excellent specimen of the unconventional cosmopolitan of modern life.

'Marcella Grace' is well conceived and, as is usual with the author, exceedingly well written.

The great lady who now writes as the author of the 'Impératrice Wanda,' but who used to write as the author of 'Chut!' and the author of 'Shocking!' and who has the glory of being, actually as well as in a literary sense, the mother of 'Gyp,' has produced in 'Harlette' a pretty little country tale, which has, however, no very solid merits.

Madame de Mirabeau has been altogether surpassed in literary popularity by her brilliant daughter, and if literary success had any bearing on elections to the French Academy we should have been more likely to see "Gyp" take her seat there than to have had to welcome M. Gréard among the immortals. Of all the ladies of birth who first took to writing after the *krach*, as the crash or crack of a great "well-thinking" bank is called, made writing fashionable, "Gyp" is the only one, not excepting her mother, who has real literary power as well as wit. She has created a number of characters in her books who are almost as alive amongst us as Anthony Trollope's, but in 'Dans l'Train' she is unfortunately more occupied with her "dislikes," and with M. Arthur Meyer in particular, than with her favourites. Most of the sketches in 'Dans l'Train' have already appeared in *La Vie Parisienne*.

#### CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

*Jud.* By Helen Shipton. (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.)

*Chimney Park; or, Mrs. Carter's "Comings."* By the Author of 'Clary's Confirmation.' (Same publishers.)

*The Black Witch of Honeycritch.* By Phebe Allen. (Same publishers.)

*Crooked.* By Helen Shipton. (Same publishers.)

*Grannie.* By Annette Lyster. (Same publishers.)

*Geoffrey Bennett.* By Mrs. Isla Sitwell. (Same publishers.)

*Swanford Bridge.* By the Author of 'Our Valley.' (Same publishers.)

*Dora and Nora.* By Annette Lyster. (Same publishers.)

*Ursula's Fortune.* By Esmé Stuart. (Same publishers.)

*The Everingham Girls.* By M. Bramston. (Same publishers.)

*Engel the Fearless.* By E. H. Mitchell. (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.)

*Aunt Edna.* By the Author of 'Clary's Confirmation.' (Same publishers.)

*Hall Court.* By the Hon. Fenella Armytage. (Same publishers.)

*The Young Carthaginian.* By G. A. Henty. (Blackie & Son.)

*Thrilling Tales of Enterprise, Heroism, and Adventure.* By Dr. Macaulay. (Hodder & Stoughton.)

*The Bravest of the Brave.* By G. A. Henty. (Blackie & Son.)

*Forest Outlaws.* By the Rev. E. Gilliat, M.A. (Seeley & Co.)

The books published by the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge are certainly improving as to their covers. It is a beautiful sight and amusing withal to see, instead of the gay and gaudy colours of yore, sad grey or dull blue adorned with simple peacock's feathers. Underneath these subdued covers there is for the most part very good matter. 'Jud' is a tale of noble and devoted work in the slums of London. Helen Shipton's work is always admirable, and Jud is one of her best characters. 'Chimney Park' is also a tale of the slums, but more ordinary in conception. It is exceedingly sad, whereas in 'Jud' the tone is hopeful.

'The Black Witch of Honeycritch' is a village story, simply told, and even rather pretty, but in no way remarkable.

Helen Shipton's 'Crooked,' also a village tale, is the history of a life of self-sacrifice. The author will not allow us to call it sad. "I must," she says, "protest against this being regarded as a story that ends sadly. 'The story was not over,' says the prince of fairy tale tellers, when that of which his tale was told had crumbled into a heap of burnt-out ashes. 'The best part of it was only just begun.'"

'Grannie' is a pleasantly written chronicle of family life among the "hands" in a great factory.

Mrs. Isla Sitwell's Geoffrey Bennett is a modern prodigal son. His father is a stern and terrible old man, and our sympathies are decidedly with Geoffrey, whose worst crime, we hasten to say, was hitting a policeman in a village fray. The policeman forgives him, but the father does not; hence the story, which is readable enough.

Here the peacock feathers quit the humbler homes and soar into "county society." 'Swanford Bridge,' which might be called 'The Annals of a Quiet Neighbourhood,' is a charming little study of character.

Dora and Nora are twin sisters, alike in face and form, as opposite as the poles in all else. Miss Lyster tells us how Dora drops stitches and how Nora picks them up, and how the family weal depends on the girls. The eccentric old aunt is an amusing person. Altogether it is a pretty and useful story for girls.

'Ursula's Fortune' is a somewhat long-winded story. The heroine has vicissitudes, the fortune comes quite at the end of the book.

In 'The Everingham Girls' we have a rather commonplace study of life in a country town. That well-worn character the fraudulent banker is a conspicuous personage.

'Engel the Fearless' is a romantic and high-flown tale of the Middle Ages, containing a castle, a wicked earl, and his child hostages. The earl is shot by a bow drawn at a venture, and the children go free.

We are not tempted to linger over 'Aunt Edna,' which seems to be rather a tiresome tale about troublesome children.

'Hall Court' chronicles, in a somewhat disjointed fashion, some incidents in the history of the family of a drunken gamekeeper.

'The Young Carthaginian' ought to be popular with boys who are not too ill instructed or too dandified to be affected by a graphic picture of the days and deeds of Hannibal. The siege of Saguntum and the battle of Lake Trasimene are

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among the episodes described, and the author has availed himself of modern knowledge of the dark subject of Carthaginian civilization. Like their congeners the Philistines, the Carthaginians have aroused more sympathy in their fall than their success could possibly have inspired.

'Thrilling Tales' is another good compilation of things new and old. In many instances these tales are mere transcriptions, as in the case of 'The Tapestry Chamber,' by Sir Walter Scott, but the author has reason for his remark that old stories are often the best. 'The First Voyage round the World,' 'The First Fight of Iron-clad Ships,' 'Kett's Rebellion,' 'The Burning of Moscow,' &c., are all more edifying than mere fiction, and quite as interesting. The author has some dramatic stories of Irish eviction, too.

Mr. Henty has done good service in endeavouring to redeem from oblivion the name of the great soldier Charles Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough. The young recruit Jack Stilwell, pressed for the war through the agency of his employer, whose daughter looked on Jack too favourably, worthily earns his commission, and tells his tale with spirit.

The times of Hugh of Lincoln and life in the twelfth century as described by Gerald de Barri and Master Walter Map are Mr. Gilliat's topic. His volume is a passable addition to the numerous books of this season which are intended to popularize among "our boys" the study of men and manners in a past of which Englishmen have every right on the whole to be proud.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

If Miss Rossetti and Mr. Symonds had never written, Miss Arabella Shore's *Dante for Beginners* (Chapman & Hall) might, with some revision, have been worth publishing. As, however, the not very recondite works of those authors are accessible to students, it is hard to see what useful purpose will be served by it to any one except the writer. We can quite believe that she "found the making a *résumé* of the kind helpful," as she says, "to her retention and comprehension as well as enjoyment of Dante's work"; but she forgets that it is just to the maker of such a thing that the labour involved in it is helpful, and that to read a summary of this kind does not necessarily impart all the knowledge which has gone to the composing of it. On the contrary, it may serve to mislead a student who is too lazy to check his teacher. For instance, any one who trusts to Miss Shore alone will be liable to think that "la mia cervice doma" means "domes my head"; that the symbolic car in 'Purg,' xxxii., put forth five heads instead of seven; that "Val di Pado" is Padua; and that "avernarsi" in 'Par,' xxvii. 142, has some connexion with *ver*, *vernus*. Miss Shore may not suppose this last herself, and from her rendering the word correctly in the next canto we incline to think she does not; but to translate it by "becomes spring" is rather dangerous. She ought to know, too, that *s'indiare*, *s'impennare*, are not correct forms for the infinitive of reflexive verbs in Italian, or "delle Scale" for the plural of a name. On one or two points it would have been better to hint that we have not absolute knowledge. The exact date and period of the action of the poem are still under discussion, though the best opinion is not that it "takes ten days, from 25th March to 3rd or 4th April." So it is doubtful whether Gentucca was a young lady of Lucca or anywhere else. Besides these obvious errors or doubtful statements there are a good many misprints, of which only eight are given as *errata*. However, several of Miss Shore's deficiencies are redeemed by her good taste in quoting a charming illustration—to which, so far as we are aware, no English commentator since Cary has drawn attention—of Chaucer's frequent indebtedness to Dante. The passage we mean is from 'Troilus and Creseide,'

and is adapted from the concluding lines of 'Par,' xxii.

Unique Traditions of the West and South of Scotland, by John Gordon Barbour (Glasgow, Morison), is, it seems, not a reprint, though the preface bears date 1833. We are not told, and it is hard to imagine, why it is published now. Its traditions are unique for nothing but their silliness. They are written in the absurd old "Keepsake" style, in which "hath" always stands for *has*, "female" for *woman*, "sylph" for *girl*, and "pampered menial" for *servant*. Several of them are not even new. Thus, the fairy flag of Dunvegan has been far better described in the life of Norman Macleod, and the story of the 'Wandering Shepherdess'—how funny it is here!—had already been told in a note to the 'Heart of Midlothian.' The 'Tarshish Fragments,' which occupy sixty-three pages, are a would-be satire on George IV.—after, a long way after, the "Chaldee Manuscript."

M. BARDOUX has written a most excellent work in *La Bourgeoisie Française*, which is published by M. Calmann Lévy. The author in his history of the French middle classes from the Revolution to the fall of Louis Philippe has for object to describe and praise the *pays légal* of those days, the limited class who alone had votes and, during the greater portion of those years, alone had power. A representative *bourgeois* himself, a moderate Liberal equally well known in Paris and in Central France, and living in both that quiet and reasonable life of the French middle classes which his book describes, M. Bardoux sings the dying song of an order of which he foresees the speedy extinction. The political power of the *bourgeoisie* has been undermined by manhood suffrage, its virtues are leaving it, and M. Bardoux tells us the story, as he says, of its "grandeur et décadence." An admirable book!

M. ÉDOUARD DRUMONT, the author of 'La France Juive,' has, emboldened by the success of his volumes, published through Messrs. Marpon & Flammarion a further work on the same subject. We thought his earlier book one so unworthy in a political sense, and so unimportant in a literary, as not to be worth notice. The foreign public have, however, bought and read it largely, so we think it right to name the appearance of *La France Juive devant l'Opinion*. This is, happily, but a single volume, and therefore contains a lesser amount of the scurrility of which M. Drumont is a master.

Books of reference continue to accumulate on our table. The most important is a new edition of Sir Bernard Burke's *History of the Landed Gentry* (Harrison & Sons), in two handsome volumes. The work of revision must have entailed on Sir Bernard a good deal of labour, as several of the families now mentioned appear for the first time. It is a pity that Sir Bernard has not exercised stricter censorship over the lineages given, as they are often of a decidedly romantic character. — *Low's Handbook to the Charities of London* (Sampson Low & Co.) has reached its jubilee, and the editor in his preface does well to record that the handbook was the first publication of the kind, and was due to the enterprise and energy of the late Sampson Low, jun.—Mr. Skinner has again brought out his *London Banks*, a useful half-yearly publication.

We have on our table the first volume of *Illustrations* (Wells Gardner & Co.), edited by Mr. F. G. Heath, a magazine better in intention than execution. The contents are most unequal. The illustrations are some of them good, but many are singularly bad; and the same may be said of the articles. The same publishers send us the annual volumes of *Chatterbox* and the *Prize*, both excellent periodicals in their way; while the Religious Tract Society send the annual volume of the *Leisure Hour*, an admirable collection of useful and entertaining reading.—We have also received some numbers of the *Lady's World* from Messrs. Cassell, a new journal pre-

pared with evident care, but surely the coloured plates might be made less hideous.—Much better colour printing will be found in the *Figaro Illustré*, a Christmas annual for which Messrs. Boussois, Valadon & Co. are the agents.

THE Almanacs, Calendars, and Date-cards of Messrs. De La Rue are, as usual, as near perfection as such things can be. Some of the borders of the Calendars are really admirable.—Messrs. J. Walker & Co. also send some useful Diaries with the pencil attached at the back.

CHRISTMAS CARDS have reached us earlier than in previous years. As usual, Messrs. Prang, of the United States, are prominent among the manufacturers of them. Mr. Ackermann as their agent sends a number of specimens, several of them highly successful. The comic cards are inferior to the sentimental ones.—Messrs. Mowbray send us some Oxford Christmas cards, designed by Mr. Wyndham Hughes, which have the advantage of referring strictly to the season.—Of the Greeting Cards of Messrs. Castell Brothers those designed by Miss Price deserve special praise as being extremely graceful and having the additional merit of comparative novelty.—Messrs. Wirths Brothers adhere to the conventional models. Of their cards the humorous ones are decidedly the best.—In this connexion we may mention an extremely pretty set of "Floral Cards" for a round game, produced by Messrs. Marcus Ward & Co.

WE have on our table *Selected Odes of Horace*, Vols. I. and II., edited with Notes by E. C. Wickham (Oxford, Clarendon Press).—*Outlines of English History* (Moffatt & Paige).—*Inspectors' Arithmetic Questions*, Standards III., IV., and V. (Moffatt & Paige).—*Moffatt's Penny Atlas* (Moffatt & Paige).—*Text-Book of Musical Elements*, by G. Oakley (Curwen).—*Music and Drill*, adapted for Use in Schools, by S. A. Bedding (Griffith & Farran).—*Handbook of Acoustics*, by T. F. Harris (Curwen).—*Beginner's Guide to Photography* (Lejeune & Perken).—*Photo-Micrography*, by J. H. Jennings (Piper & Carter).—*The Gas Engine*, by D. Clarke (Longmans).—*Contributions to the Science of Education*, by W. H. Payne (Blackie).—*Orient*, by J. Cook (Ward & Lock).—*Diseases of Tropical Climates*, by W. C. Maclean, M.D. (Macmillan).—*The Baths, Bathing, and Attractions of Aix-les-Bains, Savoy*, by W. Wakefield, M.D. (Low).—*Monsters of the Sea*, by J. Gibson (Nelson).—*Legends and Popular Tales of the Basque People*, by M. Monteiro (F. Unwin).—*Winnie*, by A. Riversdale (L.L.S.).—*Madame Bertrand*, by Mrs. C. Wethered (L.L.S.).—*The World of Thought* (Simpkin).—*The Golden Rangers*, by G. Ferry (Maxwell).—*Perils Afloat and Brigands Ashore*, by A. Elwes (Cassell).—*The Heroine of a Basket Van*, by M. Bramston (National Society's Depository).—*My First Curacy*, by T. Polkinghorne ('The Christian Commonwealth' Office).—*Gideon Hoole's Secret*, by W. J. Lacey (S.S.U.).—*Scapegrace Dick*, by F. M. Peard (National Society's Depository).—*The Heirs of Dene Royal*, by J. Chandler (S.S.U.).—*The Little Lace-Maker*, by R. F. Hardy (Nelson).—*In the Fort*, by S. Tytler (Hodder & Stoughton).—*Bertha Pomerby*, by H. G. Groser (S.S.U.).—*The Riband Oath*, by Mrs. Battersby (S.S.U.).—*The Cruise of the Mystery*, by C. Thaxter (Boston, U.S., Mifflin).—*Brentley Hall, and Poems*, by Cygnet (L.L.S.).—*With Reed and Lyre*, by C. Scollard (Boston, U.S., Lothrop).—*Berries of the Brier*, by A. Bates (Boston, U.S., Roberts).—*Beyond*, by D. Sinclair (Simpkin).—*Israel*, by A. E. Waite (E. W. Allen).—*The Dawn of Day*, Volume 1886 (S.P.C.K.).—*The Christian Soldier's Armour*, 6 vols., by the Rev. T. H. L. Leary (Sonnen-schein).—*The Bells of St. Peter's*, by the Rev. G. Everard (Nisbet).—*The Great Prayer of Christendom* (S.P.C.K.).—*Sermons New and Old*, by R. C. Trench, D.D. (Kegan Paul).—*Lights and Shadows of Church History*, by the Rev. W. Hardman (Skeffington).—*Commentar zum Römer-brief*, Part II., by Dr. Carl Otto (Dulan).—

*Jenseits von Gut und Böse*, by F. Nietzsche (Leipzig, Naumann).—*Sprache und Dialect des Mittelenglischen Gedichtes William of Palerne*, by Dr. A. Schüddekopf (Erlangen, Deichert).—*Johannes Tournair's Genannt Aventinus Bayerische Chronik*, Vol. V. Part II., by Dr. Matthias von Lexer (Siegle).—*Mythologie der Deutschen Helden-sage*, by W. Müller (Heilbronn, Henninger).—*and Kosmische Weltansichten*, by M. W. Meyer (Berlin, Paetel). Among New Editions we have *The History of Napoleon I.*, 4 vols., by P. Lanfrey (Macmillan).—*The Student's French Notes*, by M. Deshumbert (Nutt).—*Questions on History and Geography*, by F. W. Levander (Lewis).—*Camenarum Flosculos in Usum Fletianorum Descriptos*, by A. Potts and A. Heard (Blackwood).—*Marine Engines and Steam Vessels*, by R. Murray (Lockwood).—*Berlin et Paris*, by N. Tchérine (Paris, Westhauser).—*Through Dark to Light*, by A. Eubule-Evans (Wyman).—*Prose Writings of Swift*, edited by W. Lewin (Scott).—*Goldsmith's Vicar of Wakefield* (Hogg).—*and Savory's Compendium of Domestic Medicine* (Lewis).

## LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

## ENGLISH.

## Theology.

Brooks' (P.) Twenty Sermons, cr. 8vo. 6/6 cl.  
Edwards' (Rev. L.) Doctrine of the Atonement, trans. by Rev. D. C. Edwards, cr. 8vo. 5/6 cl.  
Forsyth (Rev. P. S.) and Hamilton's (Rev. J. A.) Pulpit Parables for Young Hearers, 16mo. 2/6 cl.  
Havel's (Rev. H. R.) The Picture of Jesus (the Master), 5/6 cl.  
Letters from Heaven, trans. from the fourth German Edition, cr. 8vo. 5/6 cl.  
Pember's (G. H.) The Antichrist, Babylon, and the Coming of the Kingdom, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.  
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Van Oosterzee's (J. J.) Person and Work of the Redeemer, translated by M. J. Evans, cheap edition, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.

## Law.

Brickdale's (C. F.) Registration of Title to Land and How to Establish it without Cost or Compulsion, 8vo. 5/6 cl.

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Dante's Commedia and Canzoniere, a new Translation by E. H. Plumptre, Vol. 1, 8vo. 21/6 cl.  
Edwards's (C.) Mr. Jacobs, and other Fancies in Prose and Verse, cr. 8vo. 2/6 cl.  
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Martin's (Lady) On some of Shakespeare's Female Characters, cheaper edition, 8vo. 9/6 cl.  
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Quarles's Emblems, illus. by C. Bennett and W. H. Rogers, 8vo. 7/6 cl.  
Stenhouse's (W. M.) Poems, Songs, and Sonnets, cr. 8vo. 7/6

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Parry's (C. H. H.) Studies of Great Composers, cr. 8vo. 5/6 cl.

## History and Biography.

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Gardiner's (B. R.) History of the Great Civil War, 1642-9, Vol. 1, 8vo. 21/6 cl.  
Goethe's Letters to Zelter, selected, &c., by A. D. Coleridge, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl. (Bohn's Standard Library.)  
Lottie's (W. J.) London, 12mo. 3/6 (Historic Towns, ed. by Freeman and Hunt.)  
Melmont's (W. G.) The Doge's Palace, translated by C. Brune, with Preface by G. A. Sala, 8vo. 12/6 cl.  
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## FOREIGN.

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## Philology.

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Reinisch (L.): Die Hittit-Sprache, Vol. 2, 20m.  
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## General Literature.

Ardouin-Dumazet: Le 12me Corps et les Manceuvres, 3fr. 50.

## THE EARLY CUSTODY OF DOMESDAY BOOK.

THE subject of the earliest resting-place of Domesday Book has been one of continued interest to several generations of antiquaries, and the uncertainty which has always prevailed thereon is an excellent example of the almost insuperable difficulties encountered in the pursuit of an apparently simple piece of information connected with the practice of antiquity. Ayloffe and Palgrave, and before them "the elaborate Mr. Madox," who perhaps investigated the matter more deeply than others, were unable to arrive at any definite conclusion, and the evidence which they collected has been merely repeated by later writers to still less purpose.

Three theories may be mentioned as chiefly entertained by modern scholars upon this subject:—(1) The "Winchester" theory, or that in favour of the preservation of Domesday in the Winchester treasury from 1086 to an indefinite date not earlier than the close of the twelfth century, or even later. (2) The "Westminster" theory, depending on the statements of Ingulphus and of the Burton and Bernandsey chroniclers. This theory is in effect that the book was preserved continuously at Westminster. (3) The "Winchester-Westminster" theory, which insists on its removal from the former to the latter place at a comparatively early date, probably about the commencement of the reign of Henry II. I have ventured here to advance a fourth theory, which, while it differs from all the above, will be found, I believe, to reconcile the conflicting evidence of each. For this purpose I have chiefly followed the actual practice of the Exchequer of Receipt as exemplified by existing contemporary records, as the only clue to the solution of the mystery. The results which have been thus obtained I have attempted to generalize as follows.

The city of Winchester was both the natural capital of the West Saxon kingdom and the place of coronation and burial of West Saxon kings as well as the official seat of their court and treasury. Here we may suppose the king's "hoard" was deposited, together with the regalia and plate, and such official records as existed for the period. These would probably include the standard work of Alfred, known as the Domboc, and those counterparts of charters which served the purpose of a primitive enrolment. William I. made at least such use of Saxon laws and regal customs as to justify the belief that the royal treasury and official importance of Winchester continued through the early Norman period, and that the record of Domesday Survey was naturally deposited in the treasury there. But before we can proceed upon this convenient assumption we have to dispose of a direct piece of quasi-contemporary evidence. Ingulphus, Abbot of Croyland, implies that (1) there was a Domesday (Domboc) of Alfred preserved at Winchester and designated as "Rotulus Wintonie." (2) The original of the survey of 1086, also called "Rotulus Wintonie," was preserved at the same place. (3) The register of Domesday was seen by himself at London, and was consulted there by him as being doubtless more convenient for reference than the bulky originals at Winchester. Now it is generally proposed to get over this awkward bit of evidence by disparaging the writer's character. True, he was deceitful by his own showing, but not necessarily an untruthful witness of a casual fact. I have not the slightest doubt in my own mind that Ingulphus saw the Domesday register, as it now exists, at Westminster. This, however, involves one of two suppositions: either the transfer of the coronation ceremony in Norman times to Westminster has a greater significance than we have imagined, that is to say, as indicating the displacement of Winchester as the financial centre in favour of a new official organization or pseudo-exchequer at Westminster twenty years before the accepted date; or, as I should prefer

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to take it, that Winchester continuing the headquarters of the Treasurer's department and the repository of all the three records referred to by Ingulphus, there is yet every probability that the handy book or register called Domesday followed the Court whenever important business was to be transacted, the original rotulets usually remaining in the Winchester treasury. Thus Domesday Book would often be taken to Westminster, and it is under these circumstances that it would be seen by Ingulphus. But it is important to explain that according to contemporary usage it must have been ultimately returned to its resting-place at Winchester until its services were again called for. This supposition will also clear up the hitherto mysterious passages in the 'Annals of Burton' and 'Book of Bermondsey,' the former of which is said to speak of Domesday as preserved "at Winchester and Westminster," and the latter "at Winchester or Westminster."

We know further that as late as Edward I. Domesday travelled with the Exchequer through the eastern counties to York, where it must have remained for seven years, and for the matter of that to Southampton in 1867.\* At this earliest period of its existence, however, we must not suppose that the Domesday register formed any part of an Exchequer system at Westminster. There is every reason for believing that the audit machinery of the ancient treasury at Winchester was sufficient for the purpose, and that Domesday was merely consulted on these occasional translations for the king's personal information in his curia or council. It is true, indeed, that the earliest germ of the Exchequer is perceptible in these accounts, which were, however, audited not "ad scaccarium," but "ad tales," i.e., in the treasury or receipt at Winchester. The Exchequer proper, consisting of two chambers—Exchequer of the Barons (in two compartments, "Thalamus" and "Solum") and Exchequer of Receipt (in two divisions also, "Scriptorium" and "Thesaurus")—was elaborated in its full perfection in the reign of Henry I. at Westminster (not Winchester), which became henceforth its headquarters. At the same time we find the old treasury at Winchester used as a permanent storehouse for the reserve of treasure, regalia, and records, and we even find Exchequer business transacted there by way of audit of accounts, which formed a special office or "ministerium" as late as 1130. I believe that early in the reign of Henry I. the seal and records, including Domesday Book, were removed from Winchester to the Treasury of the new Exchequer at Westminster. This depends partly on our knowledge of the conservative character of Exchequer procedure and partly on the authority of the 'Dialogus de Scaccario,' a nearly contemporary official record. In the reign of Henry II., having been suspended probably during the whole reign of Stephen, certainly since 1139, the Exchequer was revived at Westminster under the auspices of Bishop Nigel, the ex-Treasurer of Henry I., and at Westminster we find the seal, Domesday Book, and other working records still deposited, on the same authority. There is, of course, the alternative theory that Domesday Book was still preserved at Winchester, at least during the reigns of Henry I. and Stephen, partly because what is considered as an Exchequer existed there, and partly because of the common opinion that the Exchequer was not established until late in the reign of Henry I., while the official importance of the Bishop of Winchester and the unrest of Stephen's reign may have rendered the further detention of these invaluable records in the stronghold of Winchester Castle desirable. Against this we have the evidence (which is here most explicit) of the 'Dialogus,' as well as that of the chroniclers, that the Exchequer was established quite early in the reign of Henry I., and that there were numerous annual Pipe

Rolls is a necessary consequence of this early existence.

Now it is a fact of the greatest importance that the bulk of these rolls had been destroyed before the reign of Henry II., during the civil wars of Stephen's reign. The author of the 'Dialogus' alludes to the surviving rolls as a rarity, and he describes a scene at the Exchequer early in the reign of Henry II., in which one of these venerable rolls is produced with startling effect. Besides this we have the explicit words of Swereford, very little later, that he had seen "some few" rolls of that reign, and it is hardly possible that they could have been destroyed between the date at which he wrote and that of the 'Dialogus' during the best days of the Exchequer. If these rolls were destroyed, how is it then that any survived, and that Domesday Book did not share their fate? Because, I believe, these surviving rolls and Domesday Book were preserved in the Treasury of the Exchequer at Westminster, being required for constant reference; and strength is given to this supposition by the date of the surviving roll which we still possess, viz., that of the 31st year. I believe, then, that the last few year rolls (being required, as we know, for the compilation of the current roll) and Domesday Book (in constant use for estimating the fermes of counties, &c.), being still at Westminster when the Exchequer came to a standstill at the beginning of Stephen's reign, escaped and were preserved until the re-establishment of the Exchequer under Henry II.; whilst the earlier records, together probably with the original rolls of Domesday, were destroyed at Winchester when the town was occupied and fired (and the treasury doubtless sacked) by the rebels in 1141.

This theory does unfortunately dispose of the supposed removal of Domesday Book from Winchester to London, either in 1161, or 1164, or 1170, in an Archa such as was employed for the conveyance of records from Winchester to London on those and other occasions during the reign of Henry II. On the other hand, it is far more satisfactory to be able to submit a definite date (say 1108 or thereabouts) for the removal of this and other needful records to the Westminster Exchequer. Once established there, we need trouble ourselves little about its future position. The 'Dialogus' (which asserts the existence of an ancient Exchequer at Westminster, and distinguishes between it and the mere treasury at Winchester in two remarkable passages) tells us further that it was an established usage of the Exchequer that the seal, Domesday Book, the great year rolls, and other records, "que, condescente scaccario, quotidianis usibus necessaria sunt," should never quit the Exchequer of Receipt. Of course this does not prevent Domesday from having to take casual journeys "post regem," that is, when the Exchequer followed the king. It may even have crossed the Channel under these circumstances, when the Exchequer staff, with a shipload of treasure and records, was summoned abroad on financial business more than once. But it is far more likely to my mind that the great book dragged on an uneventful career between the Thesaurus and Scriptorium at Westminster from the year 1108 down to the times of Madox, the first and last historian of the Exchequer of the kings of England.

In conclusion, it will be evident from the above statement that the origin of the mystery is to be found in the existence of a double treasury at Winchester and Westminster, while its solution depends on the identification of Domesday, from Henry I. onwards, with one of these, the Westminster. It would be impossible to cite here authorities in favour of the above theory, to produce the infinite evidence of the Pipe Rolls, the Cartæ Antiquæ, and the traditions of the chroniclers. I would, however, offer in support of each of the four following propositions a single piece of evidence from the wealth of instances in the 'Dialogus

(1) That the working records (with the seal and Domesday) were preserved in the Treasury: "Verum plura sunt in repositoriis archis Thesauri.....qualia sunt sigillum regis.....liber judicarius.....et pleraque alia que consedente scaccario quotidianis usibus necessaria sunt."—*Dial.*, i. 14. (2) That this Treasury was situated in the Exchequer of Receipt: "Inferius illud scaccarium suas habet personas.....Illic est.....ostiarium thesauri."—*Ibid.*, i. 3. (3) That this Exchequer of Receipt was annexed to the Exchequer proper: "Aliud est inferius, aliud superius (scaccarium); una tamen origo utriusque."—*Ibid.*, i. 2. (4) That this Exchequer was at Westminster from ancient times: "In termino eodem (Michaelis) pro incauto\* totius anni ad utrumque scaccarium, ij solidi debentur quos sibi de antiquo jure vindicat sacristia majoris ecclesie Westmonasterii."—*Ibid.*, i. 3.

HUBERT HALL.

#### THE SELLIERE LIBRARY.

AMONG the most ardent of French collectors of rare books and beautiful bindings for more than a quarter of a century was the late Baron Sellière, and by the acquisition of the splendid collection of romances of chivalry formed by the Marquis de Salamanca the Sellière collection became pre-eminent in that class of literature. A portion of this important library will be sold by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge in February next. Among other most valuable books we may mention a Graduale, MS. on vellum of the twelfth century, executed for the Abbey of Ottenbeuren in Suabia. It is written in letters of gold and silver, and richly decorated throughout; it is perhaps unique as a MS. in which silver has been largely used without becoming oxidized. A MS. volume of Chansons, with musical notations by French composers of the sixteenth century, executed for Diane de Poitiers in 1551, and still retaining the rich binding with the monogram of her own name and that of her royal lover. Several MS. Horæ of exceptionally fine execution. Les Livres Historiaux de la Bible, a MS. on vellum with 300 illuminations. Spiegel unser Behoudnisse, Culemberch, 1483, being the Dutch version of the Speculum Humane Salvationis; not more than three or four copies are known to exist. The finest copy known of Vespuccio, Il Novo Mondo, Vicenza, 1507, also the editions of 1508 and 1521. Of early romances and *cancioneros*, Spanish, French, Italian, and German, no such array has ever before been seen in an auction room. Of these we may specify as being among the most remarkable: Hystoire du Noble Roy Ponthus, Lyon, 1480; Isaie le Triste, Paris, s.d.; Percival le Gallois, 1530; Les Quatre Fils d'Aymon, Lyon, 1480; Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia, 1490; Roman de la Rose, the first and several other early editions; Bertrand du Guesclin, Lyon, vers 1485; Tytorell und Parzival of Wolfram von Eschenbach, 1477; Cronica del Cid, Burgos, 1512; Palmerin de Oliva, 1526; Amadis de Gaula, 1508, the only copy known, and numerous other editions in Spanish, French, Italian, and German; Ly Romans de Vraye Amour, MS., *sæc.* sixteenth; Historia de Don Polindo, Toledo, 1526; L'Arbre de Batailles, MS. of the fifteenth century, and also the almost unique first edition of the same book, 1477; Artus de Bretagne, s.d.; Tewdranckh, Augsburg, 1519; Enzina, Cancionero, Caragoga, 1516; Champion des Dames, Lyon, s.d.; L'Histoire du Saint-Greal, 1523; Valentin et Orson, Lyon, 1505; Hug Shæpler, Strasburg, 1500; Les Neuf Preux, Abbeville, 1487; El Cavallero Florisandro, Salamanca, 1510; Lancelot du Lac, 1533; Meliadus de Leonnoys, 1532. Among the miscellaneous books may be mentioned Boutillier, La Somme Rurale, Abbeville, 1486; Brandt, Grand Nef des Fols, 1499; Voyage de Mandeville, the German edition of Strasburg, 1501; Thevet, Singularitez de la France Antarctique,

\* Ink.

\* These are the earliest and latest dates of its removal known to us. Probably there are several intermediate instances, certainly one in September, 1656.

Paris, 1558; Champlain, La Nouvelle France, 1640; Cervantes, Don Quixote, Madrid, 1605, the actual first edition of the first part.

Besides being rare many of the books possess additional interest from the fact of their having belonged to former collectors of renown, whose beautiful bindings they still retain. There are several specimens from the library of Jean Grolier, also from that of President de Thou, and a large number from royal and princely collections bound in old morocco with arms. The other volumes are almost without exception in rich modern French bindings by the best Parisian binders of the day, and include many specimens of artistic workmanship.

### Literary Gossip.

THE collected edition of the works of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, which we announced some while ago, will be published immediately by Messrs. Ellis & Scrutton, in two ample volumes. The main contents of it are the two poetic volumes (named 'Poems' and 'Ballads and Sonnets') which Rossetti issued during his lifetime, along with the volume of translations named 'Dante and his Circle,' &c. The original poems are rearranged, so far as was practicable and convenient, in order of date. The contents of the new publication are, however, by no means limited to the above named. Eight minor poems, which appeared in print while Rossetti was alive, but which were not included in his volumes, are added; also twenty-two others (besides some "versicles and fragments"), of which the great majority have never yet seen the light. One of these, consisting of blank verse, is named 'A Trip to Paris and Belgium,' and was written in 1849, when the author left England with Mr. Holman Hunt. All the prose writings of Rossetti, moderate enough in bulk, are also printed. They are classed under four headings: "Stories and Schemes of Poems," "Literary Papers," "Notices of Fine Art," and "Sentences and Notes." The stories include the tolerably well-known 'Hand and Soul,' and a much longer, but unfinished tale, named 'St. Agnes of Intercession.' Among the literary papers are the contributions of Rossetti to Gilchrist's 'Life of Blake.' The notices of fine art are, for the most part, critiques of exhibitions or of individual painters, written in 1850 and 1851. The translations comprise some new items, especially the rather long poem (twelfth century) by Hartmann von Aue, entitled 'Henry the Leper.' This composition is the original source of Longfellow's 'Golden Legend,' and was translated by Rossetti prior to the date of the American poet's drama. Mr. W. M. Rossetti supplies a preface (chiefly biographical), and a moderate number of notes at the end of the respective volumes.

MESSRS. LONGMAN have made arrangements with Count Vitzthum, late Saxon Minister at this Court, for the publication of an authorized English translation of the count's 'Reminiscences of St. Petersburg and London between 1852 and 1864.' The translation will appear early in the spring of next year, and will be edited by Mr. Henry Reeve.

SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL has written a somewhat comprehensive work entitled 'The British Empire.' The author, we hear, has shown much industry in trying to

make his work a complete view of the dependencies of the Crown.

FROM the beginning of the new year *Blackwood's Magazine* is to be permanently enlarged to 144 double-columned pages. The publishers say that the accession of new contributors, in addition to the well-known writers whose names are most identified with *Maga*, as well as the extended range of topics which now fall within the province of magazine literature, have rendered this step expedient. It is satisfactory to note that, in spite of the prevailing mania for signed articles, *Blackwood* has only adopted the fashion to a limited extent, and yet offers a field where the untried writer may win his spurs by the merit of his endeavours.

MR. WILLIAM MORRIS is following up his tale of Matthias Corvinus, King of Hungary—"the Alfred the Great of his time and people"—with a story on a larger scale, entitled 'A Dream of John Ball.' It is to run through four or five numbers of the *Commonweal*.

At a meeting at Burlington House on Wednesday afternoon the project of a permanent memorial to the poets and men of letters associated with the Lake District was discussed, and it was decided that steps should be taken to promote the scheme.

MR. JOSEPH THOMSON, the African traveller, has written for one of the monthly reviews an article having reference to the growth and influence of the Mohammedan states in Western Africa.

PROF. THOROLD ROGERS is about to make a contribution to the early history of the Bank of England. His work, which will deal with the first nine years of the history of that great institution, will contain much interesting information drawn from original sources.

BESIDES the Marquis Tseng's paper, the January number of the *Asiatic Quarterly Review* will contain an article by Sir Owen Burne describing the circumstances which led up to the assumption by the Queen of the title of Empress of India ten years ago.

GENEALOGISTS and biographers will be glad to learn that the late Col. Chester's celebrated collection of Marriage Licences (1521-1869), transcribed by him from the originals in the Bishop of London's office, the Faculty Office, &c., is at length to be made accessible by publication. There are two sets in existence, and one of these is to be issued by the Harleian Society, while the other is being printed by Mr. Quaritch, who has entrusted the task of editing the work to the capable hands of Mr. Joseph Foster. It is estimated that the number of these marriage licences is not less than 25,000, and the early date at which the series commences adds greatly to its interest.

JUST before Christmas will be published the first number of the *Hour-Glass*, a magazine intended particularly for railway travellers and others, among whom the "shilling dreadful" had for a time so great a vogue.

THE Pipe Roll Society is just about to issue its sixth volume, containing the Great Roll of the Pipe for the ninth year of King Henry II., A.D. 1162-1163. The volume

forms an excellent continuation of the series, and as a first-class unpublished record of a period about which there is very little contemporary evidence in print it is likely to prove useful to historical students. Among the items of more than usual interest are the coals for the king's goldsmiths; preparation of a cellar for the king's wine; the king's birds; the Danegeld; the king sending to Norway for a girfalcon; "liberatio clericorum vulneratorum"; return of account for 53*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* "pro muliere vi oppressa"; and a gift of 13*s.* 4*d.* to a certain one who was wounded.

A TRANSLATION of Kant's 'Philosophy of Law' is to be published shortly by Messrs. Clark, of Edinburgh.

THE issue of Roger North's autobiography cannot take place until early next year, owing to the necessity the editor, Dr. Jessopp, finds himself under of re-examining all existing remains of Roger North in the hope of still recovering the lost portion of the autobiography. The editor trusts the delay may enable him to offer fresh illustrations beyond those originally projected.

THE Delegates of the Clarendon Press have undertaken the publication of a new Hebrew dictionary, in preparation by Canon Driver, of Oxford, and Profs. Brown and Briggs in America. A critical Hebrew dictionary is, indeed, needed, for the tenth edition of Gesenius's lexicon, by Profs. Mühlau and Volk, just out, is no improvement upon the last edition, except for Prof. O. H. Müller's additions on proper names from Phœnician and Hymyaritic inscriptions.

THE author of 'Estelle,' a tale of Jewish life which attracted some attention a few years ago, has another story in the press, entitled 'Benedictus.' It will be published by Messrs. Bell. The same publishers, encouraged by the reception which their translation of the first part of Dr. Stinde's 'Buchholz Family' has met with in England, are preparing an English version of the second part. A translation of 'The Buchholzes in Italy' is also in the press.

A MOVEMENT has been started in the North-Western Provinces of India to form a "Roman Hindustani Society" for the purpose of introducing the Roman characters in Oriental languages.

MR. H. BUXTON FORMAN has contributed to Mr. Lloyd Sanders's forthcoming 'Biographical Dictionary of Men and Women of the Nineteenth Century' the articles on Coventry Patmore, W. Gifford Palgrave, the Rossetti family, W. B. Scott, Shelley, Sir Henry Taylor, Lord Tennyson, and Walt Whitman.

THE Shelley Society's Committee has found it necessary to prepare a third edition of Shelley's review of Hogg's 'Memoirs of Prince Alexy Haimatoff.' For this new edition Mr. Wise has rewritten his introduction, added some details not forthcoming when the other editions were published, and completed the little volume by the addition of an index.

THE little Oxford story 'Old Saints and New Demons,' lately published, is by a young lady, Miss Lucy Hill, daughter of Dr. Hill, of Magdalen College, who is now editing Boswell's 'Life of Johnson' for the Delegates of the Clarendon Press.

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WE have already mentioned Mr. Unwin's annual, 'The Witching Time,' edited by Mr. H. Norman, which last year was styled 'The Broken Shaft.' The piece that gives its title to the volume is by Mr. Austin Dobson. Among the others are: 'By the Waters of Paradise,' by Mr. Marion Crawford; 'The Captain's Bride,' by Miss Laurence Alma Tadema; 'The Spectre of Strathannan,' by Mr. W. E. Norris; 'The Witches,' by Mr. E. Gosse; 'The Hidden Door,' by Vernon Lee; 'Pothooks and Hangers,' by Mr. W. Archer; 'Vincent Hadding,' by Miss A. Mary F. Robinson; and 'Two of a Kind,' by Mr. Henry Norman.

MESSRS. BLACKWOOD & SONS will publish soon a romance entitled 'Our New Pompeii.' The new Pompeii is a town built on the Mediterranean by way of a cosmopolitan club, and the novel concerns itself with the sayings and doings of the very select and representative society gathered there. Among the characters several prominent political and social personages are so thinly veiled as to be easily recognizable.

MR. CHARLES ZACHARY MACAULAY, the historian's youngest brother, who died not long ago, was the author of a book entitled 'Authority and Conscience: a Free Debate, edited by Conway Morel.' Messrs. Longman published this book in 1871. Mr. C. Z. Macaulay was a member of the Bar, and for a time he was Attorney-General of Mauritius. Afterwards he held an office in the Civil Service. His later years were devoted to philosophical speculation. He was the only one of the historian's brothers who manifested a taste and an aptitude for literary pursuits. He had a great dislike, however, to appearing before the public as an author in his own person. His only son, Mr. Charles Trevelyan Macaulay, is a frequent contributor to the current literature of the day.

'A HISTORICAL and Biographical Account of the Ancient and Noble Family of the Savages of the Ards, with its Various Branches, Relationships, &c.,' edited by G. F. A., is the title of a work which is about to be published by subscription.

THERE is much talk in the German papers about Prof. Scherer's posthumous remains. Excepting the sketches for his university lectures, few MSS. have been found. He never read his lectures, but always spoke extempore, referring only now and then to the well-known sheets on his desk. His essays on Goethe, distributed through many different periodicals, have been collected, and will be published in a few weeks by the ablest of his pupils, Erich Schmidt, the director of the Goethe-Archiv in Weimar, as 'Goethestudien.' Dr. Schmidt also hopes, it is said, to gather into one volume a number of Scherer's smaller essays and reviews. The next edition of his popular 'Litteraturgeschichte' is being cared for by Dr. Edward Schroeder.

THE forthcoming part of Mr. W. de G. Birch's 'Cartularium Saxonicum' will contain texts of thirty-nine documents, ranging between A.D. 942 and 946. Among those of special interest are a charter of King Edmund granting land at Mielan-grave in the Isle of Thanet, from the Stowe (Ashburnham) charters in the British Museum; another of the same to his mother of land

at North Minster, in Thanet, from the Lambeth Register of Christ Church, Canterbury; and a third charter relating to Thanet, also from the Stowe charters.

CAPT. BADEN POWELL, who is writing a book on 'Pigsticking,' will be obliged to secretaries of clubs who will send him particulars of their challenge cups. His address is the Naval and Military Club.

THE obituary of the last fortnight includes Madame Jokai, wife of the celebrated novelist; Prof. Scherr of Zurich; and Gustav Freiherr v. Heine-Geldern, the brother of the great Heine and the founder of the *Fremdenblatt* of Vienna.

THE death of Mr. P. P. Alexander deprives Edinburgh of one of the most original men of letters. He was first brought into notice by his controversy with J. S. Mill, in which he displayed considerable acuteness and a rollicking humour unusual among metaphysicians, which somewhat disconcerted his staid opponent. He wrote a number of articles and essays of very varying value, but he was chiefly notable for an individuality of thought and style that is rare in these days.

A TRANSLATION of Heine's 'Reisebilder,' by Mr. F. Storr, is to appear in Bohn's Library, also translations of 'Zelter's Correspondence with Goethe' and Ranke's 'History of Latin and Teutonic Nations.' A new edition of Dunlop's useful 'History of Fiction,' with the addition of a supplement, is to appear in the same series.

MADAME DRONSART writes to us, in reference to our review of her 'Portraits d'outre Manche,' that one of the articles appeared in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*.

WE are asked by the *Quarterly* reviewer to say that in speaking of Shirley finding an enthusiastic editor before Marlowe—a remark on which Mr. Swinburne commented last week—he was referring to Gifford, who died December 31st, 1826, though his edition of Shirley only appeared in 1833.

## SCIENCE

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

*British Fungi (Hymenomyces).* By the Rev. John Stevenson. 2 vols. (Blackwood & Sons.)—These two handsome volumes contain the technical descriptions and measurements of a vast number of the most conspicuous and common fungi. *Agaricus*, to which the common mushroom belongs, comprises no fewer than 780 species, *Polyporus* numbers 124, and other genera not many fewer. The need of some well-arranged descriptive catalogue is exemplified by these figures, and this catalogue Mr. Stevenson has supplied. His work is based upon the *magnum opus* of Fries, and his descriptions appear to be conveniently and carefully drawn up; but their full value can only be tested in the field. The typographical arrangements are such as to facilitate research and accentuate points of difference. Measurements are given in the metrical as well as in the ordinary notation, and explanations of the names used are supplied. When we add that small but characteristic woodcuts of the genera are given, and that the volumes are each provided with an excellent index, we have said enough to commend the book to all interested in the determination and classification of fungi. For an account of their life-history they must look elsewhere; this does not come within the purview of the author.

*Food-Grains of India.* By A. H. Church. (Chapman & Hall.)—This handbook, it is stated in the preface, has been prepared for the purpose of providing Indian officials and students of Indian agriculture with a compact statement of the alimentary value of the chief food-grains of our Eastern empire. The foundations of the work were, it appears, laid by Dr. Forbes Watson, but Prof. Church has built up the superstructure. His opening pages contain a brief statement of the nature and constitution of food, and the amount of each principal constituent requisite to keep a healthy man of average weight in good working condition. After these introductory chapters—the information in which is clear, concise, and to the point—the author passes on to the discussion of the several food-plants and their relative value as aliments. From the author's analyses and tables it comes out clearly that while wheat and some forms of millet approximate very closely to an ideal diet as evolved from a comparative study of their constituents, rice and some other forms of millet are very deficient in their proportion of albuminoids. The good millet is *Panicum miliaceum*; the comparatively bad include *Eleusine corocana*, *Paspalum scrobiculatum*, and sundry other plants, which are all styled millet, though differing not only botanically, but, as we are now told, chemically also, and thus affording one more illustration of the misleading character of popular names. Chena millet, *Panicum miliaceum*, is suitable for growth in dry seasons, and ascends the Himalayas to a height of 10,000 ft. It is, then, worth inquiry whether this valuable cereal might not be more often cultivated in Europe, especially as we are told by Prof. Church that European samples are even more rich in food substances than Indian ones. Buckwheat, only used in this country for pheasants' food, is of high value for dietetic purposes. Needless to say it has nothing to do with wheat, but is a species of *Polygonum* closely allied to our docks (*Rumex*). Who that has seen the flocks of sparrows devouring the seeds of either of these plants has not wished that they could be turned to more practical account? Quinoa (*Chenopodium quinoa*) is a hardy plant whose seeds are extraordinarily rich in suitable nutriment. The extreme richness of many of the pulses (*Leguminosae*) in nitrogenous matters has long been known, and many illustrations of the fact are given in these pages. In addition to these sources of food supply, Prof. Church mentions sal (*Shorea robusta*), well known for its timber, but much less so as supplying an article of food. It appears, however, that the seeds are used in combination with "mahwa" flowers (*Bassia*). These latter are only incidentally mentioned by Prof. Church, but they are remarkable for the very large amount of sugar they contain, and they form one of the very few illustrations of the use of the flower, or at least of the corolla, as an article of food. Many of the plants mentioned are illustrated by characteristic woodcuts, and the book is provided with a good index, so that, on the whole, it forms an unpretending, but in reality a valuable work of reference.

*The Ordnance Survey of the United Kingdom.* By Lieut.-Col. T. Pilkington White, R.E. (Blackwood & Sons.)—It is now nearly a hundred years since the great operations by which the surface of the British Islands has been accurately surveyed and mapped out were commenced. A scheme for a triangulation of Great Britain had, indeed, been discussed in 1763, but not until after the peace of 1783 was it seriously taken in hand, and then, as it happened, the immediate impulse which led to the execution of its first instalment came from abroad. The French ambassador transmitted to the British Government a memoir by M. Cassini de Thury on the great advantages which would accrue to astronomy by carrying a series of triangles from the neighbourhood of London to Dover, and thence connecting them by obser-

vations across the English Channel with the triangulation already executed in France, a principal object of this scheme being stated to be the more accurate determination of the relative positions of the Paris and Greenwich observatories. The proposal was laid before the Royal Society, and its execution was resolved on and entrusted to General Roy, who had long before been engaged in a military survey of the Scotch Highlands, afterwards extended to the whole of the mainland of Scotland. Thus the first base-line (a little more than five miles in length) of the Ordnance Survey was measured on Hounslow Heath in 1784. By the end of the summer of 1787 the triangulation was carried from there to the Kentish coast, and then connected by joint observations with the French triangulation. No sooner was this accomplished than Roy undertook to measure a new base-line for verification in Romney Marsh, soon after the completion of which he died, and the work of the survey met with an interruption of a few years, until it was resumed in 1791 under the superintendence of Capt. Mudge. Space, however, will not permit us even to run over the later operations. An interesting popular account of them, encumbered as little as possible with technical details so as to be intelligible and attractive to the general reader, is given in the volume before us; and we feel sure that the public will be grateful to the author for its production.

#### THE EARL OF ENNISKILLEN.

WILLIAM WILLOUGHBY COLE, third Earl of Enniskillen, died at Florence Court, Fermanagh, on the 12th inst. in his eightieth year. He was a great lover of geological science, being elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of London in 1828, and was one of the oldest members of the Geological Club. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society on the 15th of January, 1829. He was also a member of the Royal Irish Academy, a D.C.L. and LL.D. of Trinity College, Dublin.

The collection of fossil fishes formed by the earl at Florence Court was one of the most complete in this country, or, indeed, in Europe or America. His lordship published in 1869 an 'Alphabetical Catalogue of the Type-Specimens of Fossil Fishes in the Collection of the Earl of Enniskillen.' When Lord Cole, he appears to have worked zealously with Sir Philip de Malpas Grey Egerton, associated with whom he published 'A Systematic and Stratigraphical Catalogue of Fossil Fish' in both their collections.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

We regret to announce the death of Dr. G. A. Fischer, which took place at Berlin on November 11th. Dr. Fischer had only recently returned from Eastern Africa. He was the leader of an expedition fitted out with a view of relieving Dr. Junker and the other Europeans in the old Equatorial province of Egypt. He failed in his object, but traversed a considerable portion of the region lying to the east of the Victoria Nyanza, which had not until then been visited by European explorers.

Messrs. George Philip & Son are about to publish a 'Queen's Jubilee Atlas of the British Empire,' consisting of a series of full-coloured maps, with descriptive, historical, and statistical notes, of the United Kingdom, and of every British colony and dependency throughout the world, and a complete statistical abstract of the British empire.

In one of his recent letters to the *Pioneer* newspaper Capt. Yate points out that the new Afghan boundary secures to Russia a route about 185 miles long and separated into ten stages along a connected line of wells extending from Panjdeh to the Oxus. The road is passable for camels all the way, and in fact better for camels than any other animal, as they require no grain and there is plenty of grazing for them

everywhere. Of course it was apparent that the best routes would soon be discovered after the Russian occupation of the country, but it is important to note from the foregoing that communication is practicable across what was recently supposed to be sheer desert, and between the two principal lines of advance, viz., from the Caspian and from Turkistan. The Boundary Commission have settled and demarcated by pillars about 325 out of 350 miles of frontier, the only question unsettled being the exact point where the boundary is to strike the Oxus. When once the two governments have decided this matter, the erection of the remaining pillars across the twenty-five or thirty miles of intervening country will be comparatively easy. The Boundary Commission undoubtedly deserve to be congratulated on the successful completion of so much in the face of innumerable difficulties. In addition to this, as Capt. Yate truly remarks, the mission have collected a vast amount of information regarding hitherto unknown regions, and future operations in Afghanistan will now be greatly simplified, as, instead of having to rely solely, as hitherto, on the chance reports of casual travellers, the Government will have at its disposal a trained body of thoroughly experienced officers possessing an intimate knowledge of the resources and features of North-Western Afghanistan; and last, but by no means least, we may venture to add, a trustworthy survey of nearly the whole region.

An elaborate report from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Chamber of Deputies on Massowah has just been issued among the Italian parliamentary papers. It contains a full account of the administrative and economic conditions of the new Red Sea colony.

General F. H. Rundall's paper on the river systems of South India, read at the British Association at Birmingham, and reproduced in the November number of the *Proceedings* of the Royal Geographical Society, is chiefly noticeable for the very full complement of statistical facts amassed regarding each river basin, and for its concluding paragraphs, in which the author reviews the action of the British Government towards utilizing the enormous wealth which it possesses in those magnificent rivers. General Rundall remarks:—

"In the Peninsula it [the Government] has done much in covering the deltas with a complete system of works; it has likewise turned many of the minor rivers to account by improving the old native works, increasing the efficiency of the channels, and enlarging the capacity of the reservoirs. But it has done very little yet in utilizing the upper waters of the great rivers. Towards the prevention or mitigation of famine it has extended its railways, with a view to transporting food from localities where it is in abundance to where it is wanting. So far well—but railways cannot produce food, neither will they serve to keep cattle, which are the sinews of agricultural operations, alive in time of drought. The ordinary trade of the country becomes disorganized by the necessity of employing all the available rolling-stock of various lines for the transport of food in one special direction, and at the end of the famine such agriculturists of the famine area as have been kept alive find themselves alive truly, but oftentimes reduced to penury, first by the loss of their cattle for want of pasture, and next by having had to purchase food for themselves at scarcity prices. On the other hand, by storing a fractional portion of the surplus water which now runs to waste in the ocean, the greater portion of the Peninsula at least may be rendered independent of the caprice of seasons, and food grown on the spot can then be sold at the ordinary prices, while the cattle will be supplied with fodder and water, and so be preserved alive and in condition. Storage sites, such, for instance, as that existing on the Tungabuddra, can be found on some of the feeders of all the great rivers, whose supply never fails, and at an elevation which will allow of their waters being carried to all the existing reservoirs on the plateaus and plains of South India. About twenty-two millions sterling have been spent by the Government on irrigation works throughout India, of which perhaps one-fourth has been laid out in the Peninsula. An equal sum expended in storage works in suitable localities, and in completing and perfecting river and canal navigation, would effectually secure every portion of the Peninsula from any future

visitation of famine, and place the lives as well as the material well-being of its inhabitants beyond jeopardy."

The remainder of the *Proceedings* is taken up with Mr. Douglas Freshfield's interesting and in some respects amusing paper 'On the Place of Geography in Education,' and other papers read at the meeting of the Association. There are some good notes this month, two of which deal with the journeys of three European travellers to Sarakha, Merv, and the Tejend and the Murghab valleys. It is curious to observe how these localities, so recently inaccessible and almost unknown, are now visited with no more difficulty than Persia. In India we learn that the remainder of the Madras Presidency is now to be surveyed topographically by the Surveyor-General's Department. We hope this is preliminary to giving the public a good and trustworthy map of the peninsula of India, a much needed want since Scott's map became obsolete. The Nicobar Islands, we observe, are also to be surveyed during the present field season.

The paper on the geographical results of the Afghan Boundary Commission by Mr. Charles E. D. Black, also referred to in the present *Proceedings*, has been republished in *extenso* in the *Proceedings* of the Scottish Geographical Society.

#### ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

MERCURY will be in inferior conjunction with the sun about noon on the 3rd of next month, and Venus in superior conjunction with him early on the morning of the same day. The apparent places of the two planets will be at the time within little more than a degree of each other. Venus will not become visible in the evening until towards the end of January. Mars is in the constellation Sagittarius, and will pass in the course of next month (during the whole of which he will set about two hours after the sun) into Capricornus. Jupiter is still in Virgo, and does not rise until after midnight. Saturn alone, therefore, amongst the principal planets will be visible during the greater part of the evening in December (rising about the same time that Mars sets), being in the constellation Gemini, where it forms a beautiful triangle with the twin stars Castor and Pollux.

Prof. Otto Struve writes to the *Astronomische Nachrichten* to announce the death of Herr August Wagner, who had so long shared his labours at the Pulkowa Observatory, and who died on the 14th inst., after a short illness, at the age of fifty-eight.

The comet discovered by Mr. Barnard on the 5th of October is now in the southern part of Boötes, very near the star  $\pi$  in that constellation. It rises between 4 and 5 o'clock in the morning, and is visible to the naked eye, being equal in brightness to a star of the fifth magnitude.

#### SOCIETIES.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—Nov. 22.—Major-General Sir H. C. Rawlinson, V.P., in the chair.—The following gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society: Lord Greenock, Capt. F. R. Drummond, Capt. W. Stewart, Capt. C. W. Willis, Rev. A. A. Boddy, Rev. S. Macfarlane, Freiherr E. von Orsach, Messrs. W. H. Angore, B. H. Barton, D. W. Brunton, W. H. Catlett, W. H. Christy, S. F. Clement, C. F. L. Cleverly, J. L. Currie, J. K. Davis, D. A. D'Monte, C. Elms, A. Ferguson, G. S. Fort, M. Galbraith, U. G. D. Glanville, M. G. Glazebrook, E. Gledhill, E. D. M. Hooper, H. C. V. Hunter, A. C. Jackson, Prof. A. H. Keane, T. S. Kennedy, B. T. Knight, R. MacFarlane, J. H. Maiden, J. E. Mason, E. F. Mathers, W. R. H. Merf, F. P. Mockford, W. Nestel, J. A. Payne, J. Porter, J. D. Rees, M. Russell-Cotes, A. Smythe, J. B. Stone, J. W. Vellacont, N. C. Wade, W. Warne, R. B. Webb, and W. Whitacre.—The paper read was 'The Islands of the New Britain Group,' by Mr. H. Hastings Romilly, Deputy Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

GEOLOGICAL.—Nov. 17.—Prof. J. W. Judd, President, in the chair.—The following communications were read: A letter from the Lieutenant-Governor of the Falkland Islands, communicated by H.M. Secretary of State for the Colonies, and 'On the Drifts of the Vale of Clwyd and their Relation

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to the Caves and Cave-deposits,' by Prof. T. McK. Hughes.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.—Nov. 24.—Sir P. Colquhoun, President, in the chair.—A paper was read by Mr. J. Offord, jun., 'On the Papyrus Literature of Ancient Egypt as illustrated by Recent Discoveries.' The object of the paper was to give a summary of the results achieved by the publication of various Egyptian papyri discovered and deciphered during the last decade.

BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—Nov. 17.—Rev. Prebendary Scarth in the chair.—Admiral Tremlett announced the discovery of a sepulchre near Carnac, having the chambers connected by passages, the sides of which were formed of upright slabs of stone.—Mr. Loftus Brock exhibited a series of penates from Cyprus.—Mr. Irvine sent sketches of several sepulchral slabs covered with patterns of Saxon date recently discovered at Market Deeping and its locality.—Mrs. Henry forwarded for exhibition some prehistoric relics found on the side of Helvellyn, about midway up.—The Chairman described some of the curious Saxon crosses at Gainsford and Darlington churches.—Mr. T. Blashill exhibited a series of photographs of some of the sarcophagi of Rome, of classic and Christian times; also three of those in the museum at Arles, one of which is similar to another in the church of St. Trophime.—A paper was read by Mr. T. Morgan on the results of the recent Congress at Darlington, the general features of the places visited being passed in review, and attention drawn to the lines of the Roman roads intersecting the district.—The second paper was by Mr. C. Lynam, on Escombe Church, the recently discovered Saxon building, which was visited during the Congress. The construction of the little edifice was pointed out, the walls being formed almost, if not entirely of Roman masonry removed from the neighbouring station of Vinoria. The chancel arch is probably a Roman arch removed stone for stone and re-erected. In the absence of the author the paper was read by Mr. de Gray Birch, F.S.A.—A third paper was read by Mr. E. Walford, 'On the Early Literary History of Darlington,' attention being especially called to a local newspaper published for a few weeks only in 1772. In one of the numbers an advertisement announced that the London coach would arrive in three days, unless any material accident should happen.

NUMISMATIC.—Nov. 18.—Dr. J. Evans, President, in the chair.—Mr. G. Deakin, Mr. D. B. Fay, and the Hon. G. Hill Trevor were elected Members.—Sir H. Peck exhibited a gold medal commemorating the landing of William of Orange at Torbay, 1688 ('Medallic Illustrations,' p. 640), by the Flemish engraver R. Arondeaux.—Mr. Bursall exhibited six coins of Æthelred II., six of Cnut, one of Harold I., and one of Edward the Confessor. Several of these were varieties not noticed in Hildebrand's work, that of Edward being especially remarkable as a new type. The moneyer's name on this coin was *SEMER ON HIRTF* (Hertford).—The President exhibited a sovereign of James I. with the bunch of grapes mint-mark; and Mr. Montagu, four very rare silver coin-weights of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I.—Mr. Montagu read a paper on a penny of Æthelwald, the successor of Æthelwulf upon the throne of Wessex. The coin is similar to that engraved in Hawkins ('Silver Coins,' No. 168), but the name of the moneyer on Mr. Montagu's coin is *TOERTVLF*, while that upon the coin described by Hawkins is *BEANMVND*. Mr. W. Brice has another specimen apparently from the same die as Mr. Montagu's penny. The engraving in Hawkins is given on the authority of a plate executed under the auspices of the notorious John White, and is therefore open to grave suspicion. Mr. Montagu maintained that no such doubts could be thrown upon his specimen. The writer further entered into some discussion of the dates assigned by various chroniclers to the beginning and end of the reign of Æthelred, and showed that the discrepancies were partly reconcilable when we remember that previous to his death Æthelwulf had resigned the crown of Wessex to his son, and contented himself with the kingdom of Kent.—Mr. Hall read a paper on some medieval coins of Milan with the device of St. Ambrose on horseback brandishing a whip and other peculiar types, such as that of a large serpent swallowing a child, a branch of a tree with two buckets suspended from it, &c.

LINNEAN.—Nov. 18.—Mr. W. Carruthers, President, in the chair.—Mr. H. Bury was elected a Fellow.—Mr. W. H. Beeby showed specimens of *Callitriche truncata* from near Westerham, Kent. The species had long been supposed to be extinct in this country, being only known as British from dried specimens from Sussex in Borser's Herbarium.—Mr. D. Morris exhibited two enlarged photographs of the Castilleja rubber tree of Central America, and Mr.

A. D. Michael living specimens and preparations of an *Argas* received from Mrs. Crawford, the State Entomologist of Adelaide, Australia. These appear to be identical with the much dreaded *Argas persicus*, Fischer.—Mr. H. N. Ridley made remarks on specimens and drawings of the species of *Coryphanthes*, viz., *C. macrantha*, Hook, and *C. maculata punctata*.—Mr. G. Murray exhibited specimens of *Rhipilia* in spirit procured in Grenada, West Indies, at a depth of five fathoms.—Mr. W. Fawcett exhibited coloured drawings of *Hydnora abyssinica* and *H. bogosensis* sent by Signor Beccari, and clearly showing the difference between the two species. Both species differ from *H. africana* in the ramiferous surfaces not extending to the apex.—Mr. C. T. Musson exhibited a malformed branch of a blackthorn obtained near Newark.—Mr. T. Christy showed pods of an African *Strophanthus*, which, mixed into a paste with clay, are used by the natives to poison their arrows; nevertheless, the pods are now imported into this country as a remedy in fatty degeneration of the heart.—Dr. M. Masters read a paper in explanation of the peculiar conformation of the flower of the orchid *Cypripedium*, based on the course of development in the minute anatomy and arrangement of the fibro-vascular bundles, and on the examination of the comparative morphology of the flower. Organogeny affords in this case only doubtful testimony, as the flower is irregular from the first. The distribution of the primary fibro-vascular bundles and of the offshoots from them affords more conclusive evidence of the true construction of the flower, and, if studied in conjunction with the comparative morphology, leads to very satisfactory results. By these means it becomes easy to refer the flower to the ordinary type seen in a regular pentacyclic and trimerous monocotyledon, from which it is reasonable to infer it may have originated. The deviations from the type have arisen from concrescence or inseparation of some part, inordinate development of others, and complete suppression of a third series. The author cited instances showing numerous intermediate gradations between the ordinary conformation of *Cypripedium* and that of the ideal type, thus proving that what was at first a matter of speculation and inference from imperfect evidence was borne out by actual fact. The illustrations brought forward afforded examples of the reduction of parts and the increased number of parts, in connexion with which the author alluded to the special tendency to develop the second or inner row of stamens, as happens in Restiaceæ and Xyridaceæ, while in Iridaceæ the opposite tendency is manifested. Another series of illustrations comprised cases of regular and of irregular *Peloria*, which were of special importance as affording evidence, on the one hand, of the probable past conformation of the flower, and on the other of the probable course of development in the future.—The fifth and concluding part of the Rev. A. Eaton's monograph of the recent *Bhemerida* or May-flies was read in abstract.—Mr. J. G. Baker read a paper entitled 'Further Contributions to the Flora of Madagascar,' in which upwards of 250 new plants, seven of which are new genera, gathered recently by the Rev. R. Baron, F.L.S., are described. Of the new genera one belongs to Menispermaceæ, one to Geraniaceæ near *Impatiens*, one to Rubiaceæ, and two each to Melastomaceæ and Compositæ. Of well-known Cape types *Pelargonium*, *Strobilanthus*, and *Belmontia* here for the first time are added to the Madagascar flora. The faint affinity of the flora of Madagascar to that of India and Malaya is strengthened by the discovery of the genus *Cyclea*, and of new species of *Alyxia*, *Didymocarpus*, and *Strobilanthes*. Of types of economic interest there are new species of *Dalbergia*, *Macaranga*, *Strychnos*, *Balsamodendron*, and *Garcinia*.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Nov. 16.—Prof. W. H. Flower, President, in the chair.—The Secretary read a report on the additions made to the menagerie during the last five months, specially noting a specimen of the glaucous macaw (*Ara glauca*), and two young Tcheli monkeys (*Macacus tcheliensis*), from the mountains north of Pekin.—An extract was read from a letter addressed to the President by Dr. Emin Bey (dated Wadilal, Eastern Equatorial Africa, January 1st, 1886), containing some notes on the distribution of the anthropoid apes in Eastern Africa.—Letters and papers were read: from Dr. C. Lütken, of Copenhagen, on the locality of *Chirodomys penicillatus*, by Mr. K. G. Henke, on a hybrid grouse in the Dresden Museum, by Prof. Flower, on a specimen of a rare armadillo (*Tatusia pilosa*) belonging to the Scarborough Museum, by Prof. Bell, on an object (apparently of the nature of an amulet) made from a portion of the skin of some mammal, and received from Moreton Bay, Australia, by Mr. H. Seebohm, on what he considered to be a young individual of the lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons minutus*), shot in September last on Holy Island, off the coast of Northumberland, the

first recorded example of the small form of the white-fronted goose which had been obtained on the coasts of our islands, by Mr. Blandford, on a mounted specimen of a scarce paradoxure (*Paradoxurus jerdoni*), from the Neilgherry Hills in Southern India, by Col. C. Swinhoe, on the species of lepidopterous insects which he had obtained at Mhow, in Central India, from Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, on the anatomy of *Geococcyx californianus*, by Mr. Lydekker, on three crania and other remains of *Scelidotherium*, two of the former being from the Argentine Republic and the third from Tarapaca, in Chili: one of the crania from the first locality he referred to the typical *S. leptoccephalum* of Owen, while the second, which had been described by Sir R. Owen under the same name, he regarded as distinct, and proposed to call *S. bravardi*; the Tarapaca form, which was characterized by the extremely short nasals, was also regarded as indicating a new species, for which the name of *S. chilense* was proposed; the author concluded that there were not sufficient grounds for separating Lund's proposed genus *Platygonus* from *Scelidotherium*, by Mr. G. A. Boulenger, on two distinct forms of the batrachian genus *Bombinator* occurring in Central Europe, from Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, upon the anatomy of the *Trochili*, *Caprimulgus*, and *Cypselidae*, from Dr. R. A. Philippi, on some of the tortoises and fishes of the coast of Chili, and by Mr. Slater, on an apparently undescribed species of gazelle from Somali-land.

METEOROLOGICAL.—Nov. 17.—Mr. W. Ellis, President, in the chair.—The following gentlemen were elected Fellows: the Rev. J. Watson, Messrs. B. A. Dobson, T. Gordon, H. Mantle, and F. Wright.—The papers read were: 'The Gale of October 15th-16th, 1886, over the British Islands,' by Mr. C. Harding. The storm appears to have been formed about 250 miles to the south-east of Newfoundland on the 12th, and was experienced by ocean steamers on the 13th. The centre of the disturbance struck the coast of Ireland about 1 A.M. on the 15th, and by 8 A.M. was central over Ireland. It crossed the Irish Sea, and turned to the south-east over the western midlands and the southern counties of England, and its centre remained over the British Isles about thirty-four hours, having traversed about 500 miles. The storm afterwards crossed the English Channel into France, and subsequently again took a course to the north-eastwards, and finally broke up over Holland. As far as the action of the barometer was concerned, the principal feature of importance was the length of time that the readings remained low. At Gledeston, not far from Lowestoft, the mercury was below twenty-nine inches for fifty hours. The highest recorded hourly velocity of the wind was seventy-eight miles from north-west at Scilly on the morning of the 16th. On the mainland the wind attained a velocity of about sixty miles an hour for a considerable time. The force of the gale was very prolonged. At Scilly the velocity was above thirty miles an hour for sixty-one hours, and it was above sixty miles for nineteen hours. The rainfall in Ireland, Wales, and the south-west of England was exceptionally heavy. A most terrific sea was also experienced on the western coasts and in the English Channel.—'The Climate of Carlisle,' by Mr. T. G. Penn, a discussion of the observations made at the Carlisle Cemetery.—Results of Hourly Readings derived from a Kiedier Barograph at Gledeston, Norfolk, during the Four Years ending February, 1886, by Mr. E. T. Dowson.—Results of Observations taken at Delanassau, Bua, Fiji, during the Five Years ending December 31st, 1885, with a Summary of Results for Ten Years Previous, by Mr. R. L. Holmes.

PHYSICAL.—Nov. 13.—Prof. B. Stewart, President, in the chair.—The President referred to the great loss which the Society had recently sustained by the death of Prof. Guthrie, the founder of the Society, and his predecessor in the chair. The President also announced that the Council were considering what steps should be taken to commemorate the late Dr. Guthrie, and that a circular expressing their views would be placed before the members in the course of a few days.—The following papers were then read: 'On the Peculiar Sunrise Shadows of Adam's Peak in Ceylon,' by the Hon. R. Abercromby. The author prefaced his description by an extract from a paper on the same subject by the Rev. R. Abney, read before the Society May 27th, 1876, in which the explanation proposed is that the effects are caused by total internal reflection, as in ordinary mirage, the difference of air density being in this case due to the low temperature at high altitudes. The author pointed out that Mr. Abney neglects the difference of density due to elevation, and that his own thermometric observations disprove conclusively any idea of mirage. The chief phenomena observed were, first, the appearance of a circular rainbow with spectral figures, near the top of the shadow of the peak, and, second, a

peculiar rising of the bow and shadow, which seem to stand up in front of the observers. Both these effects are traced to the existence of mist clouds in the vicinity of the shadow. Two dark rays or brushes were seen to shoot outwards and upwards from the circumference of the bow in directions nearly coinciding with the prolongations of the edges of the shadow, when seen projected on the lower mist clouds; but the author does not attempt to explain this phenomenon. On one occasion a second and outer bow was seen. The times during which the phenomena were visible were too short to permit sextant observations being taken, but the diameter of the inner bow was estimated at 8° or 12°. A totally distinct kind of shadow is sometimes seen from Adam's Peak just before and at the moment of sunrise, which seems to stand up against the distant sky. The author found a similar effect at Pike's Peak, Colorado, which is visible only at sunset.—Mr. G. Griffiths remarked that he had often seen similar appearances in Switzerland.—In answer to questions by the President and Prof. S. P. Thompson, the author said the reason why the shadows were seen from Adam's Peak at sunrise and from Pike's Peak at sunset was, that the configuration of the land on the west side of the former was similar to that on the east side of the latter, both being low, whereas the opposite sides were high, and therefore unsuitable for showing the phenomena. In all cases he believed the appearances were due to the shadow being projected on clouds of suspended matter in the air at various altitudes. He had not noticed whether the colours were reversed in the second bow seen from Adam's Peak, but observed that this bow nearly, but not quite, touched the inner one.—'Note on the Internal Capacity of Thermometers,' by Mr. A. W. Clayden.—On the motion of the President, a vote of condolence to Mrs. Guthrie in her sad bereavement was passed unanimously.

ARISTOTELIAN.—Nov. 22.—Mr. S. H. Hodgson, President, in the chair.—The following new Members were elected: Messrs. C. Blacker, B. Bosanquet, J. M. Cattell, F. C. Conybeare, C. C. Fenn, R. Hamilton, J. S. Mann, J. D. Rogers, W. R. Sorley, and F. R. Vicagee; Mr. H. W. Carr was elected Honorary Secretary; and Mr. S. Alexander was elected Vice-President in the place of Mr. H. W. Carr.—Mr. D. G. Ritchie read a paper 'On the Political Philosophy of the late Prof. Green.' Green was not a mere "importer" of German metaphysics. He might be considered as specially influenced by Kant and Aristotle, but the problems with which he dealt were those raised mainly by English thinkers. By a criticism of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Austin, his own theory of political obligation was worked out. The question of the justification of resistance to established governments raised the interesting problem of "historical judgments." An examination of the nature of "rights" brought out the relation of the State to the individual, and justified State action in behalf of individual freedom (in the truest sense of freedom). Green's political theory would in most respects lead practically to the same results as Utilitarianism, but he supplied a surer philosophical basis for both ethics and politics.—The paper was followed by a discussion.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mon. London Institution, 5.—'The Astronomical Theory of the Great Ice Age,' Sir H. S. Hall.
- Society of Arts, 8.—'Principle and Practice of Ornamental Design,' Lecture I., Mr. L. F. Day (Cantor Lecture).
- Tues. Royal Academy, 8.—'Chemistry,' Mr. A. H. Church.
- Tues. Civil Engineers, 8.—'Renewed Discussion on Concrete as applied in the Construction of Harbours.'
- Wed. Anatomical, 7.
- Royal Academy, 8.—'Chemistry,' Mr. A. H. Church.
- Geological, 8.—'Metamorphic Rocks of the Malvern Hills,' Part I., Mr. F. Rutley; 'New Genus of Madreporaria, *Glyptostrea*, with Remarks on the *Glyptostrea forbesi*, Edw. and H. sp., from the Tertiary of Maryland, U.S., Prof. F. M. Duncan; 'Fossil Chilostomatous Bryozoa from New Zealand,' Mr. A. W. Waters.
- English Goethe, 8.—'Annual Business Meeting.'
- Society of Arts, 8.—'Adjourned Discussion on Sewage Disposal.'
- British Archaeological Association, 8.—'St. Vedast,' Rev. Dr. S. Simpson; 'Traders' Signs on Old London Bridge,' Mr. H. S. Cumley.
- Thurs. London Institution, 6.—'Elements of Biology,' Prof. E. Ray Lankester.
- Linnean, 8.—'Locheven Trout,' Dr. F. Day; 'Hermann's Ceylon Herbarium and Linneus's Flora Zeylanica,' Dr. H. Trimen; 'New Species of *Drachsonchus* from Mergui,' Mr. H. W. Bates.
- Chemical, 8.—'Election of Fellows,' 'Bismuthates,' Mr. M. M. F. Muir; 'The Action of Inorganic Compounds on Living Matter,' Dr. J. Blake; 'Morindin and Morindon,' Messrs. T. E. Thorpe and A. J. Green.
- Antiquaries, 8.—'Notes from Records of the Manor of Botesford,' Mr. E. Peacock; 'Tiled Floor in Prior Crauden's Chapel, Ely,' Dr. F. Renaud; 'Faving Tiles found in All Saints, Maidstone,' Rev. J. Cave-Browne; 'English Medieval Chalcid,' Dean of Chester.
- Fri. Civil Engineers, 7.—'Ranging Circular Curves,' Mr. H. H. Dalrymple-Hay; 'Students' Meeting.'
- Royal Academy, 8.—'Chemistry,' Mr. A. H. Church.
- Geologists' Association, 8.—'Fossil Leather Turtles and their Occurrence in British Eocene Deposits,' Mr. A. S. Woodward; 'Further Researches in Bone Caves in Wales,' Dr. H. Hicks.
- Philological, 8.—'The Assyrian Noun,' M. Bertin.

#### Science Gossip.

It is an open secret that the Oxford tutor who wrote a nice little book called 'A Year with the

Birds' is Mr. W. Ward Fowler, of Lincoln College, and in a new edition which is coming out his name will appear at the end of the preface. This edition will contain an additional chapter, entitled 'The Alps in September,' and also a list of birds observed in the neighbourhood of Oxford.

DR. DOBERCK, the Government Astronomer at Hong Kong, has published 'The Law of Storms in the Eastern Seas.' This volume contains the observed results of about forty typhoons, continued during three years.

DR. R. MULLINEUX WALMSLEY, Senior Demonstrator at the Finsbury Technical College in the department of Applied Physics and Electrical Engineering, has been appointed Principal of the Sind State-Aided Technical College now being established at Karachi.

THE Statistical Registers of the Colony of Victoria for the year 1885 have been sent to us. The parts received are devoted to Population, Finance, and Vital Statistics. These are compiled from official records in the office of the Government Statist, and they are in every respect rendered as useful to a steadily increasing industrious population as such returns can be.

M. DEBRAY reported to the Académie des Sciences on the 8th of November on the examination by the Chemical Section 'Sur les Recherches de M. Moissan relatives à l'Isolément du Fluor.' This memoir has been thought by the Chemical Section to be sufficiently important for insertion in *Le Recueil des Mémoires des Savants Étrangers*.

MR. S. F. WALKER lately read before the South Wales Institute of Engineers an important paper on 'Recent Improvements in Apparatus for Lighting and Transmission of Power by Electricity.' At the discussion of this subject at a recent meeting Mr. Walker exhibited a portable miner's electrical safety lamp which would give a light of about five candles for some ten hours, the weight of the lamp in its present form being only 4½ lb.

M. STROUMBO brought before the Académie des Sciences on the 26th of October an interesting mode of recomposing white light by the aid of the colours of the spectrum. The prism is mounted upon an axle parallel to its edges, so that it may receive rapid rotatory movement. The seven prismatic rays are thrown on a pure white screen, the prism is then revolved, and when rotation becomes rapid the colours disappear, and a band of white light results.

#### FINE ARTS

ROYAL SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—The WINTER EXHIBITION WILL OPEN ON MONDAY, November 29.—5, Pall Mall East.—From Ten till Five.

ALFRED D. FRIPP, Secretary.

'THE VALE OF TEARS'—DORIS'S LAST GREAT PICTURE, completed a few days before he died, NOW ON VIEW at the Bore Gallery, 35, New Bond Street, with 'Christ leaving the Precincts,' 'Christ's Entry into Jerusalem,' 'The Dream of Pilate's Wife,' and his other great Pictures. From Ten to Six Daily.—Admission, 1s.

*The Art of the Saracens in Egypt.* By S. Lane-Poole. Illustrated. (Chapman & Hall.)

HAVING stated that not architecture, as it was practised in the golden days of Cairo, is his theme, but the less dignified decorative arts which were employed to embellish the mosques and palaces of mediæval Egypt before the advent of the Turks, Mr. Poole explains as follows the principles which have guided him in compiling his volume:—

"I may perhaps be thought to have wasted time over the exact determination of the chronological sequence in each separate art, but there is so much vague generalization abroad, and such extremely hazardous opinions are constantly ventilated on the subject of Oriental art, that I have considered it a matter of the

first consequence to cast aside all merely æsthetic canons and prejudices, and base the history of the arts I describe strictly upon historical evidence. An art critic is none the worse off when the date of an object is fixed by historical proofs; and those who are not versed in the principles of art criticism will be glad to have definite facts to go upon."

No doubt every one will be glad of the opportunity of sitting at Mr. Poole's feet, but "definite facts" of the kind in question are hardly necessary to the appreciation of works of art. Artists—the best judges, surely, of what is valuable in art—concern themselves chiefly, and rightly, with the characteristics, merits, and purport of what comes before them, and are content to be instructed as to history by writers who know nothing about æsthetic canons, and they are aware how often historic fabrics disappear when "exact determinations" are corrected by new discoveries. Mr. Poole is evidently not aware how indifferent artists often prove to be when told that "exact determinations" concern them most. The fact is that art history is not art criticism, still less is it art; and as no one knows this better than Mr. Poole, there was no call for that air of patronage towards his possibly stupid readers which is the chief blot on a meritorious essay. Mr. Poole's criticisms on art—in which, notwithstanding his disclaimers, his book is not lacking—are, though based on wide observation of Saracenic design at Cairo, if nowhere else, those of a highly cultivated amateur, intelligent rather than profound. In short, there are many sound observations, but little that is searching, in this book. On the other hand, Mr. Poole is possessed by the warmest sympathy for his theme, which he appraises like a scholar, and yet does not over-estimate. Although there is no novelty in the following passage, which we select as a favourable specimen, it is characteristic of our author's judgment and familiarity with his subject:—

"The history of textile ornament is strikingly illustrated by such mediæval fabrics as have been preserved in royal and ecclesiastical vestments, formed out of the spoils which the Crusading collector or the ambassador to Eastern Courts brought home. An attentive study of the admirable series of 160 plates published by Fischbach leaves no doubt either of the Sassano-Byzantine origin of Saracenic weaving, or the penetrating influence of Saracenic design over the early loom-workers of Italy and Sicily. How much Europe owes to Eastern design in textile fabrics may be judged from the prevailing Saracenic character of all the Italian work of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries; whence all Europe derived the artistic impulse."

Although the last sentence requires a good deal of qualification before we can fully accept it, there is truth in our author's general estimate of the results of an examination of Fischbach's magnificent book, to say nothing of relics preserved in national and royal collections. But it did not require a prophet to come all the way from South Kensington on purpose to tell us what every one, artist or critic, has learnt for himself when, in the beginning of his studies of Oriental and quasi-Oriental art, he turned over the pages of the 'Geschichte der Textil-Kunst,' to which Mr. Poole refers.

It is questionable if it is quite safe to rely on the fact that inscriptions jumbled together on textile fabrics indicate beyond a doubt, as Mr. Poole, writing of so-called

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Saracenic stuffs, would have it, that the weavers were mere mechanical copyists of designs foreign to them, the inscriptions being beyond their power to read. Mr. Poole speaks of the mutilation of Arabic inscriptions on textiles as if that were conclusive against the articles being other than foreign copies. But it does not do to take for granted that the weaver could read the words he wove. It is not at all rare to find brass dishes stamped with German mottoes set all wrong and yet of German origin, reproducing old patterns which included inscriptions, about the significance of which nobody troubled himself. It is much safer to judge of the origin of any piece of craftsmanship by its style than solely on the evidence of inscriptions whether rightly or wrongly placed. On the other hand, the character and correctness of an inscription would, of course, be taken into account by any critic of style. Mr. Poole's chapter on textile fabrics is one of the best in his volume.

The introductory chapter deals succinctly and clearly with the history of the Saracens and their rulers in Egypt. There is much more in this chapter than concerns the history of Saracenic art. The greater part of fifty pages is devoted to historical memoranda, which may be valuable elsewhere, but have very little indeed to do with Saracenic art and still less with South Kensington. The political history might, with considerable advantage to the visitor to the Museum, for whom this handbook is intended, have been supplanted by a terse account of the development of the artistic genius of the Saracens, and an analysis of their æsthetic principles. The origin, progress, decline, and fall of the Mameluke power have little to do with the art of a race in whose provinces it acted like the cuckoo in a foreign nest. It is not till we come to chapter ii., which gives a good, if somewhat dry sketch of the history of Saracenic architecture, that we enter on the subject to which this handbook is, or ought to be, devoted. In this chapter the often-painted smaller Mosque of Kait Bey is carefully described, and the characteristics of the builder's works are enumerated.

Mr. Poole asserts that the purest (by which we understand the severest, most dignified) form of Saracenic art is to be seen in Egypt:—

"The mosques of Cairo give us the normal character of the art; we may go eastwards to Delhi, or west to the Alhambra, to see what a fanciful taste could add to the normal elements; but we shall come back with the conviction that the purest form of Saracenic art, and that which most rests and satisfies the eyes, is to be seen in Egypt."

That the normal character of Saracenic architecture is best studied at Cairo we do not deny, but that something more than a "fanciful taste" added beauty, grace, and expressiveness to the Saracenic architecture of North-Western India is, we think, beyond question. We could not say so much in praise of the architecture of the Moors in Spain, noble and lovely as it is.

We turn with unusual pleasure to the chapter on woodwork, which, although it by no means exhausts its subject, proves that Mr. Poole is most at home in it. He is of opinion that little of the external

domestic work of Cairo, exposed to the weather as it is, such as the lattices, balconies, and the like, is older than the seventeenth century. Woodwork in the mosques may date in some fortunate cases from the fourteenth century. Mr. Poole's large knowledge of Oriental coins has done him service in dealing with Saracenic metal work, and his chapter on it is also excellent.

#### CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

THERE is much spirit and character in many of the designs by various artists to illustrate *The Chronicle of the Drum*, by Thackeray, as published in a nicely printed volume by Messrs. F. Warne & Co. On the title-page is a clever cut of the author's head after S. Laurence's portrait, capably engraved by Mr. Closson. Two sketches of scenes in the French Court by Mr. Lungren are very brilliant, pretty, and neatly drawn. Mr. Taber's Fritz at Rosbach is very clever. Mr. A. B. Frost's dead drummer on the glacis at Quebec is first rate. The queen looking on the head of the Princesse de Lamballe is melodramatic and heavily drawn by Mr. Pyle, who did much better the frontispiece of *Santerre* at the execution of the king. In the 'Battle of Mont St. Jean' Mr. Share has followed too closely a design by Mrs. Butler. 'The Englishman's Hill,' by Mr. Woodward, exhibits a vigorous reading of a capital subject, and is a good design. The cover is not good; the volume is very well printed.—With some grace and much good draughtsmanship of the modern German academical sort, Herr H. Hofmann, of Dresden, has illustrated *Scenes from the Life of our Saviour*, which Messrs. Low & Co. have issued in England. Respectable in execution and reverential in feeling, these designs are rather tame and sentimental.—*The Song of Songs* (revised version) is illustrated by M. Bida in his well-known manner of etching, and republished in this country by Mr. Nimmo in a most handsome volume, capably printed and well bound. It is needless to say that M. Bida takes a literal, not to say prosaic view of his subject, and that whatever is or may be esoteric in the poem is exoterically treated by him. His bride and her lover are Oriental peasants of our time, and their faces are far from beautiful; they are not spiritual, and not a glimpse of mysticism or any charm of romance or wonder appears in the series of fine etchings before us. M. Bida possessed a fine style of design and draughtsmanship; his figures have plenty of natural, but somewhat ornate grace, and are instinct with very human passion and dignity. Accepting their limitations, it is right to say that some of his groups are very fine, e.g., the lovers walking away from us with their arms embracing, the same walking hand in hand, she leaning on his shoulder, he leaning on a staff, and she holding her robe to receive the apples he pulls from a tree. M. Bida charms us with the harmony of his lines, the grandeur of his masses, and the simplicity of his draperies. Apart from his academical ornateness of style and the lack of spirituality in his motives, we have nothing but praise for his book.

Gray's *Elegy in a Country Churchyard* has been re clothed in the daintiest of dresses by Messrs. Field & Tuer, and published with a series of pretty, but generally trivial designs by Mr. N. P. Davies, and an intelligent "Introduction" by Prof. J. W. Hales, who had nothing new to say about the famous poem. He refrains from shocking our sense of propriety and reverence for the beautiful by saying that the park of Stoke-Poges, which ought to have been sanctified by the immortal elegy, is now the scene of the sports of an athletic club which proposes to indulge in hurdle-races. The noteworthy point about this book is the cover of parchment-like paper, of a pure cream white,

and its long ribbons of a rich amber colour. It is dainty, but it is so thoroughly out of keeping with the text it is intended to adorn that it becomes almost vulgar.—It is a pleasure to meet again Robert Bloomfield's simple and yet spirited ballad *The Fakenham Ghost*. For this we are indebted to Messrs. W. Gardner & Co., who have issued the old-fashioned letterpress with pretty and unpretending designs by Mr. J. L. Wimbush.—*Female Costume Pictures* (Sampson Low & Co.) comprises twelve lithographs (!) of "fancy" studies of damsels in different national dresses, from that of ancient Greece to the English mode of 1820. They are the works of Mr. R. Beyschlag, and are rather pretty in their way.

*Old Christmas and Bracebridge Hall* (Macmillan & Co.) are two of Washington Irving's most acceptable efforts, and they come before us adorned with brilliant and animated illustrations by the late R. Caldecott. Looking at these, no one can fail to be struck with the energy, grace, and resources of the designer, who nevertheless is not seldom out of touch with his text because he has so often chosen subjects which are conventional and artificial, and thus emphasized the shortcomings of his author (who, after all, was not quite at home in England), making us aware how numerous they are. We may be sure that Caldecott, an Englishman to the heart, would have succeeded perfectly had it been his luck to illustrate the history of Sir Roger de Coverley or the 'Essays of Elia.' As it is, in the work before us his Bachelor General, Master Simon, and two or three other important characters are conventional types, not innocent of the stage, and marked by that exaggeration which palls upon us while it offends us in Hablot Browne and Cruikshank. On the other hand, a large proportion of the personages Irving less fully described, outlines of character the artist could fill up from his own resources, are absolutely charming; see the tailpiece, an after-dinner scene, on p. 179, where the Old Soldier is holding forth and two pretty women are pretending to listen. These are simply inimitable, and compel us to regret Caldecott died without illustrating *Elia*. Touches of humour suit him better than the sentimentality of Irving, yet he was best when humour and sentiment combine, as in the Housekeeper taking her glass of wine at the Hall table, the figure of the Housekeeper's pretty niece on p. 150, and that of her aunt on p. 148. On the whole, let us say that Irving was never so agreeably illustrated as by the genial artist whom we have but lately lost.

*Days with Sir Roger de Coverley*, a reprint from the *Spectator*, with cuts by Mr. Hugh Thomson (Macmillan & Co.), contains many capital designs, some of which remind us, at a distance, of R. Caldecott, while others are very neat, animated, and pretty indeed. All of them are clearly, correctly, and crisply drawn, and they lack neither spirit nor delicacy. Mr. Thomson is at his best with animals, rustics, and boys.

Mr. E. JESSOP's illustrations of *The Knight and the Dragon*, by T. Hood (Eyre & Spottiswoode), are rather boisterous than spirited, and their draughtsmanship is crude and heavy, nay, almost coarse.

#### ART FOR THE NURSERY.

*Home Sunbeams*, written by G. Reddish, with Pictures by W. Friedrich (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge), is very nicely illustrated with designs of a somewhat unctuous and sentimental sort, cleverly drawn, tastefully coloured, and suitable for children in pleasant homes and living happy lives. The verses are of a correspondingly agreeable and respectable character. From the same publishers comes *Robinson Crusoe: his Life and Adventures*, after Daniel Defoe, with coloured drawings by C. Marr. This is 'Robinson Crusoe' "boiled down," an ignominious

proceeding, only to be tolerated because many of the "points" in the narrative have been selected for printing without their context, but unabbreviated. The cuts are only tolerably good in design, and not well coloured. *Pictures and Rhymes for Holiday Times*, Pictures by L. V. Kramer, Rhymes by R. P. Scott (same publishers), contains pretty little domestic verses and cuts which would be better than they are if the artist had taken pains to draw them well. On the whole this is a nice picture-book.

*Pets and Playmates* is illustrated in colours by E. Scannell. The verses, which are good and rather playful, are by E. Keary. Messrs. M. Ward & Co. publish the little book, which will please many children. — Messrs. Dean & Son publish *Sunshine and Stream*, a sort of novelette written and illustrated by Mr. N. C. B. Culpeper. The text is tolerably good; the more pretentious cuts are simply bad; the smaller ones may pass muster because they are modest. The same publishers have issued *The Little One's Own*, a kind of magazine of scraps of letterpress and drawings of very unequal value. The coloured examples are gaudy; the others are not so bad as their neighbours. — *The Story of a Secret and the Secret of a Story*, by I. Thorne, illustrated by A. Cooper, is published by Messrs. Hatchards, and describes a parent who is rather a bore and some commonplace children. No doubt their prototypes are common enough in life, and this is why we do not want them in a book. "Mr. Montessor" (what a name for a father!), the bore, refers not ungratefully to the *Athenæum*, and mildly chaffs the "Shakespearean Society." His little ones read "Hamlet" "recreatively," and contribute to a magazine of their own.

*Under the Water*. By M. Noel. (Bristol, Arrowsmith.) — Mr. Noel's story is not bad; it belongs to the category of 'The Water Babies,' and describes the adventures of two children who were "drowned" in a pool, and while under water encountered many persons of strange device and varied characters, and listened to several legends, of which the best is that of the sorrowful loach. Ultimately the children are, so to say, undrowned, and before we reach the end of the book they return to their parents. The illustrations, by Mr. E. A. Lemann, are tolerably good, and very neatly and well drawn, which is more than we can say for half the illustrations of children's books which come to our notice.

MESSRS. BLACKIE & SON send us new versions of *Beauty and the Beast* and *Hop o' my Thumb*, with cuts by Mr. G. Browne. We prefer the older versions of the legends, but do not deny that the new ones have merits as they have been retold by Miss L. E. Edwards. The cuts are tolerably good, those referring to the former story being the better of the two categories. — *Quick March!* by an Old Soldier, is published by Messrs. Warne & Co. for the benefit of children, and with outlines and coloured plates by Mr. R. Hollward, who has supplied the text likewise. He is a better draughtsman than a poet, his verse being tame, his designs tolerable.

#### MINOR EXHIBITIONS.

THE collection of drawings by E. Frère, in water colours and crayons, now on view in the Old Bond Street Galleries, deserves special mention on account of the sweetness, tenderness, naïveté, and sincerity which mark the threescore examples it embraces. These drawings, which are reminiscences of Frère's artistic life, were made by himself between 1870 and 1880, and are taken from nearly all the best pictures he produced between 1850 and 1880. They are worked in comparatively low and very tender keys of colour and tone, with rare delicacy of touch and draughtsmanship that is worthy of himself. Among the best of them is 'A Lesson in Drumming' (No. 2). The spontaneity of the actions and the fine truth of the

expressions of the faces, both of teacher and pupil, could not be surpassed even by Frère. 'Caught' (5) shows, with equal spirit, a snowy vista, and in the front a group of children examining a wicker bird-trap; the sequel is 'Escaped!' (6), where, getting free of the chubby little hands, the captive flies away. 'Impatient for Dinner' (10) is a hearth scene, where a boy tastes hot *potage* in a cauldron, using a big spoon, and cautious about burning his lips. In No. 14, 'Returning from Market,' a little girl—one of those plump and serious inmates of Ecouen whom Frère delighted to paint in their little blue frocks, white coifs and aprons—trudges hastily homewards in a snowy street, leaving two lines of footmarks as she approaches us. She hugs a long brown loaf. This is a gem of its kind; but No. 18, 'The Young Nurse,' surpasses it. 'Boys leaving School' (19) is a famous design. In No. 20, 'The Sleigh,' a brace of little comrades drag a small urchin in a box along a snow-laden trottoir. 'A Young Art Critic' (24) is charmingly delicate in spirit and humour; a little boy-model of Frère's sits on a stool, and in the absence of his patron intently studies a picture placed on an easel before him. In No. 30 we have 'Real Enjoyment,' two little ones seated on the floor of a cottage, earnestly wiping up the last contents of a plate with bread. Their zest is deliciously given. 'The Young Cook' (37) shows a girl standing before a fire and blowing soup in a ladle before she tastes it. In No. 46, 'The Cut Finger,' a young girl, fearful of pain, binds her wound with a hesitation and tenderness that are inimitably rendered.

At Messrs. J. & W. Vokins's gallery in Great Portland Street may be seen eighty drawings in water colours by Copley Fielding—an exhibition which, within certain limits, due to the restricted capacity and technical powers of the painter, cannot but enhance his reputation, although undoubtedly he will not regain the wonderful popularity which he enjoyed during his life. In these works, which have been selected with much fairness to represent Fielding as he was, we see his great defects, mechanical draughtsmanship, manner, limited resources, and conventionality. His powers of design are weak, his pathos is seen to be hackneyed where it is not shallow. On the other hand, when at his best he was a careful painter, anxious to elevate, refine, and give expression to what he drew; he studied colour, and endeavoured, sometimes with great success, to depict difficult and varied atmospheric effects—storms, rain, slow-gathering clouds in windless atmospheres, serene and brilliant sunlight, twilight, and gorgeous sunsets. As to the condition of the drawings, some of which have been exposed, we are told, to ordinary daylight for thirty or forty years or more, it is gratifying to see that the greater number show no great signs of change; where they have faded, the fading is almost entirely in the skies and due to peculiar and well-understood combinations of pigments. We do not lay much stress on this, because, although no such intention is apparent here, it would be quite easy to form collections of drawings to prove either side of the vexed question of the permanency of water colours which has been so much debated of late. Our painters have, in fact, nothing to do except to find out what pigments are fallacious, and what combinations of colours cannot be relied on. Collectors who keep their treasures away from the sunlight may trust them to ordinary daylight. But, as "safe bind" is "safe find," it is safest to keep drawings in portfolios, where, however, they are out of sight and unenjoyed. Among the best examples is No. 4, 'Sunset in the Highlands,' where Fielding is at his best, and his picture glows with radiant gold, which is, it is true, a little crude in colour; the sentiment of the splendid evening sky is nobly given. In 'Vessels in a Stiff Breeze' (6) the water is somewhat icy, but the modelling of it

could hardly be bettered; while the storm-compelled waves are delineated with all a sculptor's precision, and the mechanism of their movements is at once elaborate and true. The sky is quite woolly. No. 9, 'Distant View of Bolton Abbey,' illustrates the overpowering influence of Turner on Fielding, and also his vain attempt at rivalry. In itself, however, this is a drawing full of charms, chief among which are the delicacy of the curving river and its tree-crowded banks, the strength of the tone, and the colouring of the whole. No. 12, 'Scarborough,' is open to the same criticism as No. 6. No. 17, 'Off Portsmouth,' is very brilliant and exhibits some beautifully drawn small craft. Very charming is the lower of 'Two Landscapes in One Frame' (22). The 'Landscape Sunset' (31) shows Fielding's power in dealing with a conventional landscape in the spirit of Claude, which he affected in his "middle period," of which this is a very late example if it is rightly dated 1853. The work depicts a calm sunset over a dark-blue distant sea, a rocky middle, and a tree-laden foreground. As is frequent with Fielding, the last-named portion of this singularly fine picture has been sacrificed to advance the more remote portions of the work. The sentiment aimed at is perfectly attained, but that sentiment is mechanical, artificial, and hackneyed. No. 35, 'Raby Castle,' is really a much finer example, intensely rich, well graded, and good; it combines something of Samuel Palmer with more of F. O. Finch. The pure, solid, noble realism, with an additional softness, of No. 41, 'Off the South Coast' (or rather Speeton Cliffs), reminds us strongly of the best phase of David Cox's art, and depicts a brilliant, deep-blue clear sea, full of motion and colour, and overlooked by a range of rich white cliffs. The whole is in sunlight, and the picture pleases us most of Fielding's. 'Dover, Stormy Weather' (47), a sensational piece of lowering clouds, illustrates the growth of his vicious way of appealing to the groundlings. When he did this, as several productions before us here show he did, there was an end of his claims to be anything more than a third-rate draughtsman, destined to become a drawing-master in *excelesis*, for the advantage of young ladies and gentlemen.

#### Just-Int Gossip.

THE private views of the Winter Exhibitions of the Society of Painters in Water Colours and of the Institute of Painters in Oil Colours are appointed for to-day (Saturday). Both the galleries will be opened to the public on Monday next.

At Messrs. Buck & Reid's, 179, New Bond Street, is now on view "Gainsborough's Camera," which was exhibited at the Grosvenor Gallery in 1885, and comprises twelve paintings on glass by Gainsborough. One of these, which is known as 'Worcester, a Peep between the Trees,' has lately been engraved for Messrs. Buck & Reid by M. Brunet Debaines.

In addition to the owners of pictures by Van Dyck whom we mentioned last week and the week before as having promised to contribute to the exhibition of that artist's works which is to be opened with the new year in the Grosvenor Gallery, the following have consented to send pictures:—Her Majesty the Queen, the Duke of Devonshire, the Duke of Cleveland, the Duke of Norfolk, the Duke of Grafton, the Earl of Northbrook, the Earl of Aberdeen, the Earl of Darnley, Lord Bagot, Lord Wantage, Lord Arundell of Wardour, the Marquis of Hartington, Earl Brownlow, Earl Cowper, the Earl of Home, Sir Henry Thompson, Mr. W. Agnew, and Lady Eastlake.

MR. WATTS's first instalment of nine pictures of his gift to the nation, of which we spoke last week, has been placed on the staircase leading to the Art Library at South Kensington. The colour of the walls there, which was originally

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of a warm sage green, has been altered to suit the coloration and tonality of the pictures. It is now, much to the benefit of those examples, of a rich, rather reddish marone, light enough to assert the tones of the darker works. It is not intended permanently to place these paintings where they now are.

We are permitted to repeat a statement formerly made in these columns to the effect that on every Saturday or Sunday afternoon persons wishing to see Mr. Watts's pictures now in his gallery at Little Holland House, Melbury Road, Kensington, will be admitted to do so on application, without any introduction or previous request.

In the Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham, has been formed a collection of the works, 175 in all, of the Birmingham artist F. H. Henshaw.

The sale season began yesterday (Friday) at Christie's with the dispersion of the remaining works of the late Mr. James Fahey, of the Institute of Painters in Water Colours, consisting of 198 lots. To-day (Saturday) the works of the late Mr. Sidney R. Percy will be sold.

The good example set by Messrs. Agnew & Sons in presenting to the British Museum, as we stated last week, a numerous collection of engravings published by their firm has already borne excellent fruit. Mr. Lefèvre generously authorizes us to state that he will present to the Print Room a complete set of artist's proofs, where attainable, or, if not, of the next state of each subject, of all his publications. These examples comprise twenty of the works of Mr. Alma Tadema, twenty-seven after Mdlle. Rosa Bonheur, and productions of Messrs. J. C. Hook, W. H. Hunt, E. Nicol, F. Goodall, and others—in all 125 subjects. Most of these prints are celebrated for their fine artistic qualities, and they were produced by able engravers, including Messrs. Auguste Blanchard, P. Rajon, L. Lowenstam, T. L. Atkinson, F. Staepoole, J. Ballin, S. Cousins, W. H. Simmons, T. O. Barlow, V. Lhuillier, R. W. Macbeth, E. Salmon, T. Landseer, C. G. Lewis, A. Gilbert, and others.

We have to record the death on the 20th inst., at the age of ninety years, of Mr. Ambrose Poynter, father of the R.A., and previous to his retirement to Dover, where he lived many years, an architect of considerable repute. Among other noteworthy buildings, he designed the church in Victoria Street, Westminster.

The next quarterly meeting of the Society for Preserving the Memorials of the Dead will take place in January, when papers will be read by Mr. W. J. Loftie on epitaphs; and by Mrs. Danvers Taylor on the Fetherston monuments in Stanford-le-Hope Church, Essex, and on the Tyrell monuments in Downham Church, Essex.

We commented some time ago on the supply of sham Tanagra and other antiquities from Smyrna. The Director of the Imperial Museum at Constantinople proposes to introduce provisions against the perpetrators of these frauds in his amended law for the preservation of antiquities. The present law, intended to be beneficial to the Museum, has not realized its object, and has impeded legitimate research. The law of treasure trove has also acted unfavourably, as it has here.

The Archaeological Commission of Russia has entrusted Prof. N. Kondakoff with the task of bringing out the *édition de luxe* which it has sanctioned of the antiquities relating to the empire of Russia to be found in the galleries of the Hermitage.

F. B. writes:—

"It may interest your antiquarian readers, and indeed many others, to learn that the old marble-clad chalybeate bath in Coldbath Square, commonly called Nell Gwynn's bath, is in danger of being obliterated by the approaching street improvements in Clerkenwell. The bath is considerably

below the present street level, and will be still further below that of the new street; it might then be arched over, and so spared to posterity. On account, therefore, of its hygienic properties (to which the present writer can personally testify) as also of its historic associations, would it not be well to preserve it, if possible, in the public interest?"

THE French journals record the death last week, aged forty-seven years, of M. Eugène Petit, an excellent flower painter, pupil of MM. Müller and Diéterle. He obtained a medal of the Third Class in the Salon of 1873, and the Médaille de Vermeil of the Société d'Horticulture at Rouen in 1879.

In the last number of the Russian *Historical Messenger* (*Istoricheski Vestnik*) we read of the discovery of a Greek city on the banks of the Dnieper. About five versts below the village of Bielozersk are the ruins of a city which have just been explored. Traces have been found of streets regularly laid out, the foundations of houses, stoves filled with cinders, pots, and the remains of bones, pits to hold grain, drainage pipes, many domestic articles, fragments of statues and handsome cornices, pieces of lead, and some Greek money with the inscription "Olbia." To all appearance this is the site of the Greek city of that name. As yet only a tenth part of the ruins has been explored. Next spring the excavations will be continued, and the *kourgans* close by will be examined.

## MUSIC

### THE WEEK.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Novello's Oratorio Concerts.  
CRYSTAL PALACE.—Berlioz's 'Childhood of Christ.'  
ST. JAMES'S HALL.—The Popular Concerts.

THAT the audience which at the second Oratorio Concert, on Tuesday evening, crowded St. James's Hall to its utmost capacity were attracted by the announcement of Sullivan's 'Golden Legend,' and not of a new mass by Gounod, there can hardly be the shadow of a doubt. Sir Arthur Sullivan is unquestionably the most popular living English composer, and his new cantata has been unanimously declared to be his masterpiece. When to this attraction are added such names as those of Mesdames Albani and Patey and Messrs. Lloyd and King as principals, it is no wonder that every seat in the hall was sold several days before the concert. Of the 'Golden Legend' itself we have spoken so recently that nothing remains to add except to record the fact of an admirable performance and a most enthusiastic reception of the cantata,—and this, too, although, from an error of judgment on the part of the managers, it was placed at a great disadvantage. The 'Golden Legend' played exactly five minutes less than two hours. This, with an interval after the second or third scene, would have been amply sufficient for a concert of reasonable length; but it was preceded by Gounod's mass, which occupied fifty minutes in performance! The natural result was that during the latter part of Sir Arthur Sullivan's cantata there was an almost constant exodus from the hall; it was, indeed, the highest possible compliment to the composer that so large a proportion of the audience stopped till the close of the performance. When will our concert-givers learn the impolicy of the absurdly long concerts that are continually being given? In the present case, moreover, it is difficult to imagine what motive can have prompted the choice of Gounod's mass, unless it were a wish

to provide by its tedium a stronger foil for Sullivan's charming music. The 'Troisième Messe Solennelle' may possibly be effective in a church service—on this we express no opinion; but a more dull and tedious work in a concert-room we have seldom been compelled to listen to. Excepting the 'Agnus Dei,' which has some musical interest, the music is a mere *réchauffé* of the 'Redemption' and 'Mors et Vita' in a much diluted form. It contains all the worst mannerisms of Gounod's later style, while there is but little of the sensuous beauty by which he often tempts us to overlook his faults. There is a great want of contrast, for the mass consists entirely of slow movements; and it was rendered even more tedious by the fact that Mr. Mackenzie took some of the *tempi* considerably slower than the indicated metronome time. In other respects the performance was good; but its reception was deservedly cool, some of the numbers passing in solemn silence, without even an attempt at applause. The production of the work was a mistake which we think is not likely to be repeated, and is chiefly to be regretted because of the prejudicial influence it exerted on the 'Golden Legend,' by wearying both performers and audience before the real work of the evening commenced.

By the production last Saturday afternoon of Berlioz's "sacred trilogy" (to use his own title), 'The Childhood of Christ,' Mr. Manns added another important work to the *répertoire* of the Crystal Palace Concerts. Though more than thirty years have elapsed since it was first performed in Paris, it is only within the last few years that it has become known in this country. For its first hearing in England musicians are indebted to Mr. Halle, who gave it at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on December 30th, 1880. It was on that occasion noticed so fully in these columns (*Athen.* No. 2776) that, in view of the pressure on our space this week, we must refer our readers to that article for a description of the work itself, and confine our remarks now almost entirely to Saturday's performance. Of this it is pleasant to be able to speak in terms of very high, almost unqualified praise. Though written for a much smaller orchestra than Berlioz's other large works, 'The Childhood of Christ' is by no means easy. The extremely complex polyphonic writing and the peculiar rhythms in which the composer so freely indulges present both to performers and conductor a somewhat arduous task. That Mr. Manns would be fully equal to it nobody would for a moment doubt, while (with the exception of one of those unfortunate accidents which will occur from time to time, and against which the best conductor is powerless) the orchestral playing was most magnificent. The chorus singing also deserves warm commendation. From the construction of the Crystal Palace orchestra it was impossible fully to realize some of the composer's effects. He directs, for example, that during the whole first part of the work the sopranos and altos are not to be on the orchestra, but are to sing in an ante-room. As it is absolutely impossible to carry out this arrangement at the Crystal Palace, the ladies of the choir, of course, had to be in their usual places. One of the

finest effects of the work—the "sourdine vocale," as Berlioz calls it, at the end of the first part—was lost; but this was inevitable. The semi-chorus of angels, it is only right to add, was sung behind the orchestra by Mr. Stedman's choir of boys, who gave the music correctly, but without much refinement. The solo parts were admirably rendered by Miss Mary Davies (Mary), Mr. Santley (Joseph), Mr. H. Piercy (Narrator and Centurion), Mr. Robert Hilton (Herod and the Ishmaelite father), and Mr. Stanley Smith (Polydorus). The work evidently excited great interest, the charming duet in the first part, the "Farewell of the Shepherds" and the "Repose of the Holy Family" in the second, and the trio for two flutes and harp in the third, being most warmly applauded. We must not omit a word of praise to the new version of the words used on this occasion, published in the edition of the score just issued by Messrs. Forsyth Brothers. It is by "M. H.," and is far superior in literary merit, and especially in fidelity to the original, to the older version.

Works by English musicians are sparingly introduced at the Popular Concerts, the catalogue of the past twenty-eight seasons including the names of thirteen English against one hundred foreign composers. The first performance of Dr. Villiers Stanford's Sonata in A for piano and violoncello last Saturday was, therefore, something of an event. It appears that the work was composed some eight or nine years ago, and was performed at one of Mr. Franke's concerts in 1882. It is numbered as Op. 9, and therefore cannot be taken as representative of the composer's talent at its ripest stage of development. It is only in three movements, making allowance for the fact that the first and last allegros have each a slow introduction. The middle movement is virtually a *scherso*, and this proved the most pleasing last Saturday. Speaking generally, the work is refined and chaste rather than brilliant; but if not strikingly original, it at any rate forms an agreeable addition to the not very large stock of piano and cello sonatas of merit. The performance by Miss Fanny Davies and Signor Piatti was beyond all praise. The rest of the programme consisted of Mozart's recently discovered Adagio in E for violin; Schubert's Impromptu in B flat, Op. 142; and Beethoven's Quartet in F, Op. 59, No. 1. Mr. Lloyd sang 'Adelaide' and Piatti's "Awake, awake."

It is only within the last few years that Schubert's ottet has been given in its complete form, owing to the difficulty in obtaining the parts of the fourth and fifth movements. Curiously enough, since that difficulty was removed the work has not been frequently heard at the Popular Concerts, the reason probably being the extreme fatigue it entails on the wind players. Mr. Chappell has hit upon a happy device for removing this disadvantage by dividing the work into two, giving the first three movements before, and the last three after the interval. No possible objection could be taken to this course, and even to the audience on Monday the break must have been a relief. The ottet may not be so peculiarly characteristic of Schubert's genius as, for example, the Quartets in D minor and G or the Quintet in C, but it is an exquisitely

beautiful work, the wealth of melody it contains being simply amazing. Monday's performance, if not absolutely free from flaw, was, on the whole, extremely fine. It may seem invidious to single out one performer from the others, but we must name Mr. Paersch for his incomparable rendering of the difficult horn part. The rest of the programme was unimportant. It included Mozart's Piano Trio in G, No. 8, and pieces by Chopin, played by Miss Fanny Davies. Miss Liza Lehmann infused a great deal of charm into some songs by Massenet and Brahms.

### Musical Gossip.

THE programme of Mr. Dannreuther's second chamber concert last Thursday week included Dr. Hubert Parry's Pianoforte Quartet in A flat; Brahms's Sonata in G, Op. 78, for piano and violin; and Beethoven's Trio in D, Op. 70, No. 1. The scheme next Thursday will include a Sonata for piano and violoncello by Rheinberger, Op. 92, for the first time.

If the first of Mlle. Kleeberg's pianoforte recitals at the Princes' Hall on Wednesday afternoon was not well attended, the state of the weather must be taken into account. The programme was rich in works of importance, including Bach's Suite Française, No. 5; Beethoven's Sonata in B flat, Op. 22; Mendelssohn's Variations Sérieuses; and the whole of Schumann's 'Kreisleriana.' The young pianist has gained considerably in power, while her sympathetic touch and refined style have undergone no deterioration. The Bach suite was played to perfection, and the Beethoven sonata also received a charming interpretation. English music was represented by minor pieces of Sir George Macfarren, Mr. J. F. Barnett, and Mr. H. C. Banister.

THE first of Mr. John Boosey's London Ballad Concerts took place on Wednesday evening at St. James's Hall. The artists who actually appeared were Miss Eleanor Rees, Miss Mary Davies, Madame Sterling, Mr. Maybrick, Mr. Santley, and Mr. Frederic Lamond. Madame Valleria, Mr. Lloyd, and Madame Néruda were prevented from fulfilling their engagements.

THE programme of the Royal Academy Students' Concert at St. James's Hall last Friday week included several compositions by pupils, of which the most important was a Sonata in E flat for piano and violin by Mr. C. S. Macpherson (Potter Exhibitioner). This is a work of considerable promise. The admirable singing of the choir, under Mr. Barnby's direction, deserves mention.

VISCOUNTESS FOLKESTONE gave two concerts at the Princes' Hall on the evenings of Thursday and Friday week, at which a special feature was the playing of the Ladies' String Orchestra, conducted by the concert-giver.

DYORAK's oratorio 'St. Ludmila' was given for the first time in Manchester at Mr. Charles Halle's concert on Thursday evening.

THE Bow and Bromley Institute Choir, which has already on several occasions distinguished itself by its enterprise, will perform Sullivan's 'Golden Legend' at its first subscription concert next Tuesday, under the direction of Mr. W. G. McNaught. Rheinberger's Organ Concerto in F will also be included in the programme.

SEBASTIAN BACH's 'Passion according to St. Luke,' of which only one copy is known to exist, is to be performed in the course of the coming winter by the Philharmonic Society at Carlsruhe.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—E. D.—C. L. P.—A. C. K.—J. F.—A. H. D. H.—F. M. B.—received.  
No notice can be taken of anonymous communications.

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